



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SACCO/VANZETTI CASE

PART 8 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 61-126

SUBJECT Sacco/Vanzetti

FILE NUMBER 61-126

SECTION NUMBER 6

SERIALS 682-713

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



refer to
6521 Sa 1/185

December 27, 1924.

61-126

Dear Mr. Hoover:

With reference to the case of *Sacco and Vanzetti*, there is enclosed a copy of report No. 734, dated November 19, 1924, which has been received from the American Legation at Riga.

Very truly yours,

Arthur Bliss Lane

Enclosure:

Copy of report,
as stated.

JAN 7 1925

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-126-68	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
DEC. 29 1924 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Division 2	FILE

834

Nov. 19, 1924.

OFFICE: American Legation, Rio de Janeiro

GEOGRAPHIC DESIGNATION: (RUSSIA)-FEDERATION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

SCHEDULE No. and SUBJECT: 72220 Radical subversive
activities.

TITLE: RECENT ACTION IN FAVOR OF SACCO AND VANZETTI.

SOURCE: "New Crime of American Justice", proclama-
tion of International Revolutionary Relief
Organization (MOPR), Moscow IZVESTIA, No. 260,
November 14, 1924.

D.E.M.

(Initials of Officer preparing
report).

J.C. WHITT.

(Signature of Charge
d'Affaires).

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS REPORTS:

About three years ago, thanks to the energies of the American workmen, the veil of one of the darkest deeds of the bourgeois justice of United States was up-lifted. Two of the most popular workmen and revolutionaries in the state of Massachusetts, Sacco and Vanzetti, were made the victims of an unheard of, provocatory, legal process, which leaves far behind even the Tsar's lawcourts. These two workmen were arrested for the simple reason that they knew the value of the bourgeois culture and that they had in their hands all the profits of the unlawful work of the New-York poli-tica. To be led and.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1925.



Dear Mr. Hoover:

As of possible interest, there is enclosed herewith a copy of despatch No. 3060 dated December 18, 1924, which has been received from the American Consul at Harbin concerning anti-American propaganda by the Red Russian press.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Ladd

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

U-2
OK

FEB 1 0 1925

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-126-133	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 31 1925 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Division 2	FILE

DUANE L. HIGGINS

No. 2060

AMERICAN CONSULATE

HANKOW CHINA, December 12, 1926.

SUBJECT: ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA BY THE CHINESE PRESS.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge, for the information of the Department, a sample of the anti-American propaganda indulged in by the local Bolshevik organ the CHUNGWA under date of December 7, 1926. It will be noted that the article states that the working revolutionists should unite in the struggle against the American capitalists and the Washington reactionists.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. C. HANSON

U. S. Consul
Hankow, China

A copy of the article is

being sent to Tokyo, Peking and Tientsin.

800
GCH/TLL

Document 1
Bribes

September 12, 1934
J. 1934.

IN THE AMERICAN TORTURE CHAMBERS.

Sacco and Vanzetti who are now condemned to death for having murdered the bribees of the American police, are two conscientious revolutionists who had worked for the revolution of the American system and had enjoyed great influence over the revolutionary proletarian.

When the American police learned that these two workers were in possession of certain documents which might completely compromise the police authorities, they started their persecution. The case of the murder of two capitalists with the participation of Sacco and Vanzetti is a creation of the police. The latter bribed the judges, witnesses, the press and the public. As result Sacco and Vanzetti were condemned to death for crimes which they had never committed.

The workers revolutionists should unify for the struggle against the American capitalists and the "Washington Executioners". They should try to forbid the execution of the two American comrades and save them from the cruelty of the American bourgeoisie.

.....

JOURNAL MEMORANDUM

Date 11-15-22

Office Detroit, Mich.

TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE:
SACCO-VANZETTI AGITATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/8/82 BY SP-803/AC

Origin of Case Detroit Bureau office

Date 11-15-22

Local Office No. Q-2229

Bureau No. 61-126

Other Office No. _____

Assigned to Special Agent [REDACTED]

Date 11-15-22

Reassigned to Special Agent _____

Date _____

Reassigned to Special Agent _____

Date _____

STATUS OF CASE

Referred to U. S. Attorney _____

Date _____

U. S. Comm. Warrants Issued _____

Date _____

(Name of commissioner.)

Preliminary Hearing _____

Date _____

Continued Hearings _____

Date _____

Presented to Grand Jury _____

Date _____

Indictment Returned _____

Date _____

Arraignment and Plea _____

Date _____

Set for Trial _____

Date _____

(Name of judge, court, and place.)

Court Verdict _____

Date _____

Remarks: Report forwarded 11-15-22. Investigation concluded.

NOTE.—This form is to be filled in by typewriter or ink.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

DOCKETED

7-1236

61-126

THE UNDERSECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

February 16, 1925.



61-126

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Referring to previous correspondence regarding Sacco and Vanzetti, there is enclosed herewith as of possible interest, a copy of despatch No. 972, dated January 29, 1925, which has been received from the American Legation at Lisbon, transmitting a copy of a communication which was received by the American Consul General at Lisbon from the Anarchist Federation of the Central Region in Lisbon, together with copies of its enclosures, being two letters addressed by the said Anarchist Federation to President Coolidge.

Very truly yours,

Arthur D. Lane

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures.

U-2

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEB 25 1925

*1-enc
HSC*

61-126-684	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 17 1925 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Division 2	FILE

Lisbon, January 26, 1925.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 964 of January 16, 1925, and to previous despatches concerning protests of various labor organizations in Portugal against the condemnation of Bacco and Vannetti, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy, in triplicate, of a communication which was received by the American Consul General at Lisbon from the Anarchist Federation of the Central Region in Lisbon, together with copies of its enclosures, being two letters addressed by the said Anarchist Federation to President Coolidge.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours obedient servant.

Fred Morris Deering.

Enclosures: Copy of letter of Federaçao Anarquista da Regiao Central, with its enclosures.

AEA

[Copy]

FEDERACAO ANARQUISTA DA REGIAO CENTRAL

"Comite Regional"

Lisboa-Portugal.

Lisboa, the 19th January 1948

To

Consulate for U.S.A. in Lisbon

We inform you that, under the date,

we are sending to Mr. Goelaga, the Head Agent of U. S. A.

a protest as per enclosed copy.

We beg to inform you also that another protest
has been sent to same gentleman on the 10th inst.

Respectfully,

FEDERACAO ANARQUISTA

da

REGIAO CENTRAL

"COMITE REGIONAL"

Lisboa-Portugal.

(Copy)

FEDERACAO ANARQUISTA DA REGIAO CENTRAL

Comitê Regional

LEBON FURNAL

Lebon, the 10th December 1934.

Mr. Coolidge

President U.S.A.

White House

Washington.

For "Sacco and Vanzetti"

Workingmen in Lebon gathered today into a public meeting on invitation of F.A.R.C. (Anarchist Federation of the Central Region) in order to appreciate and judge about the situation of Sacco and Vanzetti - two anarchist militants of the labor movement in America whom the reaction of that country pretends to annihilate by charging them falsely with the crime of murder and robbery and consequently by condemning them to death (what if put in practice, should be one of the most unjust and of the most criminal action of the reaction after the dreadful crime of the capitalism in Chicago as Sacco and Vanzetti did not commit the crimes which they are charged with) - decide to energetically protest against the infamy that is intended to perform and require, in the name of the human right to the Life and Liberty, the commutation of the pain as well as the putting those comrades free at all.

For this purpose, workingmen gathered resolve further to send this protest to the President of the Federal Republic of

U. S. of America.

The fifth department of the International Red Assistance,
seizing in Portugal has just written to inform us that same
has resolved to support this project.

FRANCOIS ARMANDO

REDAO CENTRAL

"Comite Regional"

Lisboa - Portugal

Lisbon, the 20th January, 1923

Mr. Coolidge

President U. S. A.
White House
Washington

We inform you that workmen assembled at S.V.M. (Metallurgic

Syndicate) in Lisbon, on the 27th December last by invitation of the
F.A.M.O. (Anarchist Federation of the Central Region) approved the
following resolutions:

Considering that it is excessively large the number of victims
of the international reaction, who lay in the prisons of several
countries and claim for the solidarity of the labourers in the whole
world;

Considering that there are innumerable workers who have fallen
victims of the Black Reaction in Italy, Spain, Brazil, Russia and
U. S. of America;

Workers in Lisbon, gathered at a public meeting of protest
against the international reaction, by invitation of the Anarchist
Federation of the Central Region, decided:

To affirm their moral and material solidarity to the victims of
the international reaction;

To send a protest to the president of the federal republic of
U.S.A. (North America) demanding the commutation of the capital pun-
ishment which the american bourgeoisie intends to apply to Sacco and
Vanzetti and claiming for their liberation;

To send a protest to Alphonse XIII against the dictatorship of Primo
de Rivera and the persecutions which the revolutionary labourers
have been the victims of and demand the liberation of the prisoners
at Vera;

To send to the competent entities a protest against the continuation of imprisonment of the social revolutionists in Brazil, Italy and Mexico as well as against the intention of the

Justice in these and other countries to punish the workers, students and farmers.

According to the facts we are sending you this honest report.

For your guidance we herewith enclose copy of a protest and as we are sending by this post to the president of U.S.A.

OFFICE OF
THE UNDER SECRETARY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

June 1, 1926.



Dear Mr. Hoover:

Although I assume you have already received a copy, I am sending you herewith the announcement of a mass demonstration in connection with the Sacco and Vanzetti trial.

Very truly yours,

A. K. K.

61-126

J. E. Hoover, Esquire,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

Handwritten notes:
JUN 3 1926
JUN 4 1926
JUN 5 1926

JUN 4 1926

RECORDED

61-126-686	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 2 1926 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Div Two	

Sacco and Vanzetti Must Not Die

MASS DEMONSTRATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1926, 7 P. M.

At the Labor Institute

8th and Locust Streets

SPEAKERS

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn

Sec'y Am. Fund for Public Service

August Claessens,

of the Socialist Party

Arturo Giovannitti

Sec'y Italian Chamber of Labor

E. Sormenti

Secretary Anti-Fascisti Alliance

Henry Corbishley

Defendant in the Ziegler Miners Case

Norman H. Tallentire

of the Workers (Communist) Party

The Massachusetts State Supreme Court has refused a new trial to Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti.

THEY ARE NOW SLATED FOR IMMEDIATE EXECUTION!

They are guilty of one crime only. **DEVOTION AND LOYALTY TO THE WORKING CLASS.**

A few days ago they wrote:

"We are and will remain to the death for the emancipation of the workers; for the elimination of every form of oppression, exploitation and injustice."

"ONLY THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS—THE PEOPLE—CAN GIVE US LIFE AND FREEDOM."

ATTEND THE MASS DEMONSTRATION!

SACCO AND VANZETTI MUST NOT DIE!

ADMISSION FREE



Auspices International Labor Defense

ADDRESS REPLY TO
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
AND REFER TO INITIALS

HPW-FL

Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office,

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS.

FEDERAL BUILDING.

Boston, June 2, 1926

RECORDED & INDEXED

J. Edgar Hoover, Esq.,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

JUN 11 1926

61-726-686
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 8 1926
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Div. One

My dear Mr. Hoover:

A rather disturbing situation has arisen in this district which I feel should be brought to your attention. I assume that you are in general familiar with the situation created by the trial in the Massachusetts State Court of Sacco and Vanzetti, back in 1921. These men were convicted of the murder in South Braintree of two men, Parmenter and Beradelli, committed on April 15, 1920. The cases have dragged along from 1921 until the present time by reason of many motions for new trial filed by the defense and the pendency of the Defendants' Bill of Exceptions in the State Supreme Court. These motions have all been decided in favor of the Government, and within a month the Supreme Court has disallowed the defendants' Exceptions.

At the time of the trial the defendants admitted that they were members of a so-called radical organization which was, in fact, of a revolutionary character. In other words, their organization, whatever it was called,

believed in the overturn of the Government by force. I personally took part in the trial, as Assistant District Attorney for the county where the case arose, and at that time was in touch with [REDACTED] and other Agents of the Department of Justice in connection with the activities of the above organization. There have been no local demonstrations by the committee which has carried on the defense of these two men, at least in this district, until recently, although the newspapers are constantly reporting bombing and other outrages in foreign countries. Early in the morning of Tuesday, June 1, the house of a man named Samuel A Johnson, in West Bridgewater, was bombed, some fifteen or twenty sticks of dynamite being used, and the house wrecked. Johnson was a brother-in-law and brother of two important Government witnesses who testified in the above trial. It seems clear that the bombing was committed by sympathizers of Sacco and Vanzetti who mistook the Samuel Johnson establishment for that of Simon Johnson, the witness I have mentioned.

As the time for the execution of these two men approaches, delayed perhaps by additional motions for new trial, I have reason to believe that other and perhaps more serious demonstrations will be made. Such outrages, of course, will be matter for the local authorities to take care of. If, however, these acts are committed or furthered by an

3.
anarchistic organization, it occurs to me that the Federal Government may become interested. It will be interested, presumably, anyway if these offenses in foreign countries are committed by reason of propaganda sent out by the defense committee or their allies in or around this district.

I have talked with Mr. Dowd this afternoon and am writing you with his full knowledge. What I should like to effect, if you have the inclination and the means at your disposal, is to inquire into this alleged organization, find out if possible its personnel at the present time, and, again if possible, what its anticipated activities are to be. I feel the situation to be sufficiently serious to warrant a certain amount of investigation now. By this I do not mean that Agents should necessarily be specially assigned to the work, but it may be that the Department has sufficient evidence already in its files which if collated will give us the starting point from which we can work in the future.

Thanking you for any advice or suggestion in reference to the matter, I remain

Very respectfully,

Harold P. Williams

Harold P. Williams,
United States Attorney.

RECEIVED

61-126-686

RECORDED

June 9 1962

SECTION

Honorable E. A. Williams,
United States Attorney,
Boston, Mass.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/15/82 BY SP-607/huc

My Dear Mr. Williams:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant concerning the Sacco - Vanzetti situation and have given the same very careful study. Up until two years ago the Bureau of Investigation gave considerable attention to activities of the radical elements in the United States, covering, of course, the activities of the anarchists and communists. Prior to that time, through the efforts of the Bureau of Investigation working in conjunction with the Department of Labor, a large number of aliens had been deported. I believe it was finally settled by the Department that there were no Federal statutes under which prosecution could be initiated against individuals who belonged to anarchist societies as long as an overt act was not committed and, of course, the majority of the ultra-radical elements were indulging in the circulation of literature and the making of speeches and the overthrow of the government and the promotion of terrorism to these ends. I think the experience showed in the past and showed that propaganda could be as destructive, if not more so, than force of arms.

Two years ago when Attorney General Stans assumed duties here at Washington the activities of the Bureau of Investigation were curtailed insofar as the investigation of radicals was concerned because of the fact that it was considered inadvisable and, in fact, contrary to law that any money of the Bureau of Investigation should be spent on investigations of matters that did not constitute a violation of the Federal statutes, and since it was believed that activities of radicals did not constitute such a violation of law there was no justification for spending money of this Bureau in conducting such investigations. This policy has been strictly adhered to ever since that time.

We have, however, in our files a large mass of material covering the radical movement in years gone by and in line with your suggestion I am causing to have prepared a summary brief of the Sacco Vanzetti group in order to see exactly what we have.

I do not know what it may mean the Department of Justice has taken tentative inquiry as to whether any of this movement has been inspired by aliens, thus making them subject to deportation. Apparently you have discussed this matter with the Immigration authorities at Boston and it may be that they are already looking into it.

Of course, if you reach the conclusion that the activities are of a character that fall within a violation of any federal statutes, I would suggest that you communicate with the Attorney General, setting forth your views on the matter. The Attorney General could then review the situation and decide whether or not it was a matter to which Bureau Agents could be assigned for active investigation, and if such instructions were issued, I, of course, would respond promptly.

With expressions of my best regards, I remain

Director.

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/26/82 BY SP-8/ML

P. O. Box 239,
Boston, Mass.

8523

61-126

June 5, 1926.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

JUN 11 1926

61-126-687
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 7 1926
9-26
ad 6

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Under date of the 2nd instant, Mr. Harold P. Williams, U. S. Attorney at Boston, Mass., addressed a communication to you in reference to the case of Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco, defendants in a murder case in Massachusetts who are now awaiting sentence under conviction of murder in the first degree, the penalty for which calls for electrocution.

You will recall that in 1920 there was organized in Boston a body known as the Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee, which circularized the entire radical world, and, as you will recall, from reports rendered by the Department of State, demonstrations were made against American governmental representatives in foreign countries.

Mr. Williams brought up this matter yesterday for the reason that on the morning of June 1st, current, the home of a Mr. Johnson at Bridgewater, Mass., was bombed, the house wrecked and considerable damage done in the vicinity. The State authorities feel certain that the crime was committed because of agitation on behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti, although in this particular case the house selected was that of a brother of an important government witness at the trial, a mistake in selection having been made.

Mr. Williams was assistant county attorney when the trial was had of that case and later, while the case was pending on various motions for new trial, was the District Attorney of that county and naturally knows considerable of the element involved because of his experience with the different members of the defence committee.

In referring to his letter, which explains the entire situation, it occurred to the writer that were the same to accord with your view of the situation, the New York City office of the Bureau might be asked to instruct any under-cover operatives it may have to concentrate upon the matter of securing all information possible with reference to Italian anarchist activities on behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti, as I feel that wherever the trouble, if any may arise, it will be directed from New York or else will be eventually reported to radical circles in that city.

6/5/26.

Also, if the Bureau in acceding to the suggestions of Mr. Williams, has in mind the probability of sending an Italian-speaking agent or agents to this city, permit me to suggest that [REDACTED] of the Pittsburgh office, is most thoroughly familiar with the entire Italian situation in Boston and although he might not be available for under-cover work, for the reason that it is possible that he became known while in Boston for several years, nevertheless his knowledge of the individuals involved is exceptional. b7c

The undersigned is merely submitting these suggestions for your consideration in connection with the communication of U. S. Attorney Williams.

Very truly yours,


JOHN A. DOWD
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD:EMFD *

RECEIVED
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ELI(S)N
DATE 11/17/52

INVEST
DIVISION

61-126-31

RECORDED

JUN 11 1952

8521

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-5 BTJ/muc
on 6/28/82

Mr. J. A. ...
U.S. ...
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. ...

RECEIVED - ...

I am in receipt of your communication of the 5th instant concerning the letter addressed by United States Attorney Williams to me in connection with the Sacco-Vanzetti matter, and I am enclosing herewith for your information a copy of a letter which I have today written to Mr. Williams.

This situation is one that is, of course, rather difficult to handle. We have discarded practically all the informants with the exception of two and these two are by no means within the inner groups. The policy of the Department for the last two years has been to refrain from the investigation of any matter that does not cover a violation of a Federal statute. Up to the present time there has been nothing presented to the Department that indicates a violation of a Federal statute by the Sacco-Vanzetti group. There have, of course, been instances of violence alleged to be attributed to sympathizers of Sacco and Vanzetti. As far as I have been able to observe, however, there has been no Federal criminal statute violated. As I indicated in the letter to Mr. Williams, if it is shown that any of the individuals responsible for these acts of violence are aliens, they, of course, will be subject to deportation as well as prosecution in the state courts. I am not very optimistic as to the possibility of developing facts that would enable the Federal government to proceed with a prosecution in a Federal court in this matter. Of course, I would like to be able to find some theory of law and some statement of facts to fit it that would enable the Federal government to deal vigorously with the ultra-radical elements that are engaged in propaganda and acts inimicable to the institutions of our country. I think I have personally been in considerable contact with this dangerous situation than any other individual, but insofar as I have been able to ascertain, the Federal government has been more or less powerless to act as a result of these various groups and individuals have not come within the Federal statutes.

Of course, prior to two years ago, the Department of Justice did on a rather large basis the activities of the ultra-radical elements. As you know, serious question was raised among some elements of the ultra-radicals as to the authority of the Bureau of Investigation to conduct such work and, as a result of this agitation and these I believe the present policy was decided upon in order to conform with the law.

As I have indicated to Mr. Williams and as I wish that you would

24

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET7

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review ~~and direct response to you.~~

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61-126-687x, 687x1, 688, [REDACTED]

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 X FOR THIS PAGE X
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41-126-689

RECORDED

June 25, 1922.

Mr. A. Mirk,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am inclosing herewith a copy of a letter and envelope addressed to the President making certain threats.

The original letter and envelope have been transmitted to the Secret Service for whatever action may be deemed appropriate.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 4222

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/23/02 BY SP-8AT/mc

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 25 1922 A.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
FILE	

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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61-126-689

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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61-126-688
RECORDED

JUN 24 1926

June 24, 1926.

Mr. V. Norman Moran,
Chief, Secret Service,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am attaching hereto an original letter
and envelope addressed to the President making
certain threats.

This is for your information and whatever
action may be deemed appropriate.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 42151

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/28/82 BY SP-807/ab

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

61-126 - 690, 691

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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B1

J. A. Dowd,
Federal Building,
Boston, Mass.

Instruct Agent West to confer with United States Attorney Williams
relative Sacco-Vanzetti matter submitting all reports to him step
Matter had been explained to Mr. Williams

One Hoover.

61-126
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Class. & Ext. By SP-8 BTJ/mc
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2
Date of Review 7/15/92
7/15/92

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/28/92 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc

RECORDED

61-126-692

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XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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61-7726-693
RECORDED

JUL 8 1936

July 8, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

With reference to the request made by an attorney for Sacco and Vanzetti to examine certain reports of Special Agent West, I communicated with United States Attorney Williams by long distance and explained the situation to him. Mr. Williams stated to me over the phone that he thought it would be inadvisable for him to confer with the attorney for Sacco and Vanzetti as in view of his previous connection with the prosecution of the case, any decision made by him might be claimed to be prejudiced by the counsel for the defense. Mr. Williams stated, however, that he would be very glad indeed to go over the files with Mr. West and to then advise us as to his views in the matter.

I am attaching hereto for your information a copy of a communication received by me from United States Attorney Williams relative to this matter. You will note that further word is expected from him and as soon as it is received I will promptly advise you.

Respectfully,

Director.

Encl.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/27/82 BY SP-8BJ/mh

247

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

July 6, 1926.

6/6/26
Hester

61-126-694

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am attaching hereto for your information
a subsequent communication received by me from United
States Attorney Williams at Boston dated July 1st
which has reference to the Sacco-Vanzetti matter.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Director.

Encl.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/28/82 BY SP3 BJS/mk

Returned by Atty Genl.
7/14/26 J. E. A.

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Department of Justice
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Director

Reference your letter July 6th Deane Vanzetti matter.

My response special delivery placed in mails today.

Enc Dowd.

Rec'd. S

[REDACTED] C

To Director 5:20

Class. & Ext. by SP-8 BTJ/mc
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.2
Date of Review 01/13/92

[REDACTED] C

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OTHERWISE

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67-126-196

[REDACTED]

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CONFIDENTIAL

July 4, 1934.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11/25/12 BY SP8BJT/mh

Mr. J. J. Dowd,
P.O. Box 258,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Dowd:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a communication received by the Attorney General from Mr. William C. Thompson, counsel for the defendants in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. This is the matter about which I wired you a few days ago, instructing Agent West to confer with United States Attorney Williams.

I wish that you would show this letter to Agent West and also have him discuss the matter with Mr. Williams and then write me fully as to any information or facts which might be of assistance to us in preparing an answer to Mr. Thompson.

Kindly give this matter your immediate attention.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED & INDEXED

Director.

Encl.

61-126-697

2

C O P Y

THOMPSON, SPRING & MEARS

TREMONT BUILDING

BOSTON, MASS.

July 3, 1926.

Hon. John G. Bargent,
Attorney General of the United States,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

At the suggestion of Senator Butler I am writing to you to inquire whether Mr. William J. West, now a Special Agent of the Department of Justice in Boston, may be authorized to talk with me concerning the Sacco-Vanzetti case, and to show me whatever documents and correspondence are on file in his office dealing with the investigations made by the Boston Agents before, during and after the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti, which occurred in June and July, 1921.

On July 1, 1926, I took an affidavit of Mr. Fred J. Weyand, who was a Special Agent of the Department in Boston both before, during, and after the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti, but is now a Special Agent of the Attorney General's office of the state of Maine. His affidavit tends to indicate that there was close cooperation between the Boston Agents of the Department, especially Mr. West, and Mr. Katzmann, the District Attorney, in the prosecution of Sacco and Vanzetti; and also that there was at least considerable doubt in the minds of some of the local Agents of the Department whether Sacco and Vanzetti were guilty of murder, or merely of being radicals. Mr. Weyand refers to correspondence and reports, the originals or duplicates of which are still on file in the Boston office. It would be of great assistance to me in establishing what I believe to be the truth in this matter if I might have access to those files.

For your information I will say that the present motion for a new trial is based upon the confession of one Celestine F. Medeiros made at the Dedham jail in November, 1925, to the effect that he and his associates and not Sacco and Vanzetti, are the men who committed these murders. One b7c
an associate of Medeiros in a subsequent murder committed in Wrentham in November, 1924, has made an affidavit stating that Medeiros several times told him about the South Braintree crime, and implicated members of the so-called "Morelli gang" of Providence, or some of them, as his associates in that crime. Medeiros himself subsequently stated to me some of the details of the crime, and afterwards swore to the statement, which has been filed as an affidavit. On June 28, 1926, his deposition was taken on direct and cross interrogatories at the Dedham jail; and on July 2, 1926, he was sentenced to death in the week beginning September 8th next for the murder of Mr. Carpenter at the Wrentham Bank in November, 1924. He has steadily refused to disclose the identity of his associates in the South Braintree crime, but has repeatedly confessed to personal participation in the crime.

I did not come into this case until after the trial, but I did argue in the Supreme Court of this state the exceptions of the defendants taken at the trial and to the overruling of certain subsequent motions. A study of the testimony and of the affidavits obtained by myself and associates in support of the present motion, and consideration of the whole case, has led me to believe

that these two men, although radicals, and possibly proper subjects for deportation under the existing laws, had nothing to do with the South Braintree murders, and that their execution for those murders would be and would be regarded by very large numbers of persons in this country and throughout the world as being not only as a miscarriage of justice, but as in effect a punishment of these men for their opinion. I need hardly say that I have no sympathy with their radical opinions; but I feel that it is of the utmost importance that the whole truth in reference to the specific crime of which they are accused should be disclosed.

Respectfully yours,

(signed) Wm. G. Thompson.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Hoover

July 8, 1926.

61-26-698

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

With regard to the attached communication addressed to you from Mr. William G. Thompson which was routed to the Bureau, I assume that you will want to consider the memorandums which I addressed to you under date of July 2nd and July 6th and with which I transmitted copies of communications received by me from United States Attorney Williams at Boston, in preparing a reply to Mr. Thompson.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

Encl.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/27/82 BY SP-800

b7C
Agts [redacted] & West instructed upon orders of
Attorney General to see Mr. Thompson.
7/13/26 J. B. H.

68

THOMPSON, SPRING & MEARS
COUNSELLORS AT LAW
1132-1139 TREMONT BUILDING
TELEPHONES HAYMARKET 0884-0885

6/6/26
Hobbes
WILLIAM G. THOMPSON
ROMNEY SPRING
GEORGE E. MEARS

Boston July 3, 1926

Hon. John G. Sargent,
Attorney General of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

At the suggestion of Senator Butler I am writing you to inquire whether Mr. William J. West, now a Special Agent of the Department of Justice in Boston, may be authorized to talk with me concerning the Sacco-Vanzetti case, and to show me whatever documents and correspondence are on file in his office dealing with the investigations made by the Boston agents before, during, and after the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti, which occurred in June and July, 1921.

On July 1, 1926, I took an affidavit of Mr. Fred J. Weyand, who was a special agent of the Department in Boston both before, during, and after the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti, but is now a special agent of the Attorney General's office of the State of Maine. His affidavit tends to indicate that there was close cooperation between the Boston agents of the Department, especially Mr. West, and Mr. Katzmman, the District Attorney, in the prosecution of Sacco and Vanzetti; and also that there was at least considerable doubt in the minds of some of the local agents of the Department whether Sacco and Vanzetti were guilty of murder, or merely of being Radicals. Mr. Weyand refers to correspondence and reports, the originals or duplicates of which are still on file in the Boston office. It would be of great assistance to me in establishing what I believe to be the truth in this matter if I might have access to those files.

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I did not come into this case until after the trial, but I did argue in the Supreme Court of this state the exceptions of the defendants taken at the trial and to the overruling of certain subsequent motions. A study of the testimony and of the affidavits obtained by myself and associates in support of the present motion, and consideration of the whole case, has led me to believe that these two men, although Radicals, and possibly proper subjects for deportation under the existing laws, had nothing to do with the South Braintree murders, and that their execution for those murders would be and

Hon. J. G. S. -3-

would be regarded by very large numbers of persons in this country and throughout the world ^{as being} not only as a miscarriage of justice, but as in effect a punishment of these men for their opinions. I need hardly say that I have no sympathy with their Radical opinions; but I feel that it is of the utmost importance that the whole truth in reference to the specific crime of which they are accused should be disclosed.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. G. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

July 12, 1926.

61-126-700

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

I am attaching hereto for your information a copy of a communication dated July 8th received by me from my Agent in Charge at Boston which is a comment upon the letter addressed to this Department by Mr. W. G. Thompson, attorney for Sacco and Vanzetti.

I thought that you would want to consider this communication before making a reply to Mr. Thompson's letter, which I returned to you with my memorandum of the 8th instant.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/21/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/ML

Encl.

570 Upon instruction of Attorney General
Agts. [redacted] & West were instructed to see
Mr. Thompson.

File
JH

7/13/
26

J. E. H.

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,
Boston, Mass.

JUL 13 1926

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-126-700

July 8, 1926.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

AND FIELD OFFICES

ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP

DATE 7/12/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc

DATE 7/12/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc

Dear Sir:

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Acknowledgment is hereby made of the receipt of your communication of the 6th, current, inclosing copy of a letter addressed to the Attorney-General by Mr. William G. Thompson, attorney for two defendants Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, who, in 1921, were convicted of a charge of murder in the Superior Court of Norfolk County, at Dedham, Massachusetts.

In your letter you instructed that I show the copy of Mr. Thompson's letter to Special Agent West, instruct him to discuss the matter with Harold Williams, U. S. Attorney, at this city and wire you fully on the subject matter.

Due to the fact that Agent West was not able to see Mr. Williams on July 7th, 1926 and the further fact that his presence at Holyoke, Mass. on July 8th, 1926 was made necessary on official business I conferred with Mr. Williams.

I have just come from a conference with him and he is of the same mind as he was on June 30th and July 1st, on which dates he wrote you on one phase of the Sacco-Vanzetti case. After reading the report submitted to him at that time by Agent West he was of the conclusion that, in the absence of a request for some specific report it would not be advisable to permit Mr. Thompson to examine the great amount of reports in this office on the ground that such reports were confidential and could not furnish anything in the nature of new evidence. Mr. Williams still feels that it would be inadvisable to turn over to Mr. Thompson the reports on file in this office on the Sacco-Vanzetti matter in the absence of a request for some particular report or reports and in the absence of making known just what he wants.

The matter adverted to in your letter and in that of Attorney Thompson has received the careful consideration of the undersigned, who fails to note anything that would be of assistance, from his view-point, to the defense counsel in the nature of newly discovered evidence as ground for a new trial in the courts of this Commonwealth.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8 BTJ/mc
ON 6/29/82

7/8/26.

In compliance with instructions from you, under date of October 24, 1921, in your letter initialed JEH-LMR, a complete summary of the case was transmitted by Special Agent W. J. West in a report dated October 29, 1921. This report has been reviewed by U. S. Attorney Harold P. Williams, of Boston, who, it will be recalled, was at the time of the trial in the State court an assistant county attorney and later district attorney for the county of Norfolk, and Mr. Williams agrees with this office that there is nothing in the report of evidentiary value to the defense. It is also desired to point out that, in view of the fact that there is nothing contained therein of value to the defense, no good reason can be seen for disclosing to the public certain matters of a confidential nature.

Again, to review the State's case, and for your information, it may be stated that the defendants, Sacco and Vanzetti, were on July 14, 1921, found guilty of first degree murder in the Norfolk County Superior Court at Dedham, Mass., the offense alleged to have been committed at South Braintree, Mass., on April 15, 1920. In addition to that, the defendant Bartolomeo Vanzetti was found guilty, in another case, of an attempted highway robbery at East Bridgewater, Mass., and is now serving a sentence of fifteen years on that charge.

At that time in 1920 a Mr. Frederick Katzman was district attorney for the counties of Norfolk and Plymouth and Mr. Harold P. Williams was then his assistant, and Mr. Katzman was later superseded by Mr. Williams, who was elected district attorney for the same district, the latter holding that office, as is recalled, during the period of arguments of various motions subsequent to the conviction.

As nearly as can be recalled, the two defendants were arrested at or near Brockton, Mass., on the evening of May 5, 1920. On December 24, 1919, an attempt was made to hold up the paymaster of the L. Q. White Shoe Company at East Bridgewater, Mass., and, after an exchange of shots, the culprits escaped in an automobile. On April 15, 1920, the paymaster and guard of the Slater and Morrill Shoe Company, of South Braintree, Mass., were held up, \$15,000. stolen, and the murder committed. Subsequently an automobile, alleged to have been the one used in both instances, and said to have been the property of one Mike Boda, an Italian who was never located, was found in the woods near Bridgewater, Mass. A trap was set to apprehend Boda, who had a car in the garage of one Johnson at Bridgewater, and, on the evening of May 5, 1920, three men called, two of them being the defendants and the third, one Orciani, later discharged for lack of evidence. At the time of their arrest by the Brockton police both defendants had loaded revolvers on their persons and one of these figured in the trial, if remembered correctly, as the death dealing weapon. Sometime in 1920 Vanzetti was tried, found guilty of the first offense of attempted highway robbery and sentenced to fifteen years at the State Prison, and, as stated, both defendants were convicted on the second charge, that of murder, on July 14, 1921.

7/8/26.

At the time of their arrest, in addition to the loaded weapons, both defendants are alleged to have had upon their person a notification concerning a meeting (Radical) to be held in Brockton, Mass. It is desired to point out that sometime in March, 1920, or thereabouts, two Italian anarchists, namely, Roberto Elia and Andrea Salsedo, were arrested in New York City by the U. S. Immigration Service, as alien anarchists, and, it is assumed, these men had been the subjects of investigation by the New York City office of the Bureau. Sometime in April or May of 1920, Salsedo committed suicide by jumping from the fourteenth floor of the Park Row Building in New York City, and, it was claimed by the two defendants - later during the trial in 1921 - that they had interested themselves in the defense of their com-patriots, had arranged meetings on their behalf, collected funds, etc., which accounted for their possession of allegedly radical literature, later found in their homes, although at the time of their arrest it appears that they told conflicting stories. The possession of loaded firearms figured largely in the trial and the same was commented on by the Court, if the writer is advised correctly. This apparently was damaging evidence. We now assume, from inquiries made, that counsel for the defense wishes to account for the possession of such weapons on the ground that the defendants feared arrest by Agents of the Bureau, and, as they probably claim (and this is not charged to their counsel) that they believed that if apprehended they would meet with bodily harm.

In this connection, it is desired to point out to you that Special Agent West, of this office, who at that time was thoroughly conversant with the trend of such matters in this district, never heard of either defendant, either in or out of the anarchist organizations, in this district up to the time of their arrest and never knew that such persons existed. In fact all of the information developed was secured after the formation of a so-called "Defense Committee" in the summer of 1920 and during and after the trial in 1921. Further, as you probably know, the Boston office had no knowledge of the arrest of Elia and Salsedo in New York City, the first intimation of the same coming through newspaper reports on the death of the latter. Further, the Boston office, which caused a number of arrests of alien Communists in January of 1920, was not conducting any so-called drive on Italian anarchists in the Spring of 1920 or at the time of the arrest of the two defendants. In reporting to you that Agent West, of this office, never heard of these two men until their arrest, it is not our intention to claim that the names of either or of both never appeared in any report emanating from the Boston office prior to April of 1920, as such a name or names might have appeared incidentally in connection with an investigation of a similar nature, and the files of this office at that time contained merely an index of the caption of the report. It can be said, however, that they were certainly not sufficiently active to come to the attention of the office up to that time in any matter of any importance.

Their counsel, Mr. Thompson, in the opening paragraph of his letter, asks access to "whatever documents and correspondence are on file dealing with the investigations made by the Boston agents before, during and after the trial". In reply to this, it may be stated that the office has at least one drawerful of reports on anarchistic activities coming to its attention during

7/8/26.

and after the trial, most of which, it was felt, were caused by the so-called Defense Committee, and all of which is of a confidential nature, but none of which so far as we can ascertain has any bearing upon the facts at issue between the Commonwealth and the defendants.

Attorney Thompson refers to an affidavit of former Special Agent Weyand, formerly of this office, in which the allegation is made or an indication at least that there was "close co-operation between the Boston Agents of the Department, especially Mr. West and Mr. Katzman, the District Attorney, in the prosecution of Sacco and Vanzetti; and also that there was at least considerable doubt in the minds of some of the local agents of the Department whether Sacco and Vanzetti were guilty of murder, or merely of being radicals".

It is needless to state that there has always been and probably always will be a comity of interests between this office and the offices of county attorneys throughout our district, and, in the interest of the Federal Government, such must exist, particularly in cases of con-current jurisdiction. In this case, however, it must be stated that it was a case within the jurisdiction of the State solely, a charge of murder, and you are undoubtedly aware of the fact that, even if assistance was asked, this office would not be in a position, if allowed, to furnish a man or men experienced in the investigation of murder cases as very seldom does such a case arise within the jurisdiction of this office, while, on the other hand, all county attorneys in this State, have assigned to them, the same as in this case, experienced members of the Massachusetts State Detective Force who are dealing constantly with crimes of violence.

While these defendants were arrested on May 5, 1920, it was not until November or December, of 1920, that Agent West of this office conferred with District Attorney Katzman, in reference to them, and that in the following manner:

On September 16, 1920, a bomb was exploded in Wall Street, New York City, killing thirty odd persons. At that time Mr. George F. Lamb was division superintendent of that district, which also numbered Boston as a sub-office. Special Agent West was assigned to New York City for about one month in September and October of 1920 in connection with the investigation of that affair, he being one of a large number who were called for that duty, and while there Mr. Lamb advised that he thought it would be advisable to place an informant in either the State Prison, where Vanzetti was confined, or at Dedham, where Sacco was confined, not that either defendant would know anything about the alleged crime but, in view of the notoriety which was being given to their activities as anarchists in the past and as the entire movement seemed to center around them, it appeared to him that the proper man might obtain some information from the many visitors. This assumption appeared tenable in view of the fact that any clue at New York appeared hopeless. Therefore, in November or December, 1920, an informant reported to this office from Mr. Lamb and was placed in the Dedham jail but unfortunately was not a person fitted for such work and within a week or so had to be removed. This occasioned the conference with the District Attorney, Mr. Katzman, who was agreeable to the same in view of the enormity of the New York crime.

7/8/26.

Concerning that portion of Mr. Thompson's letter wherein he refers to an affidavit in his possession made by Fred Weyand, and in which Weyand intimates that agents of the Boston, Mass. Office of the Bureau were in doubt as to the guilt of Sacco and Vanzetti it seems reasonable to consider of what value this opinion would be to Mr. Thompson as material in any plan he advances in his efforts to secure a new trial. Not one agent of this office ever conducted any investigation of the crime for which these men stand convicted and not one scintilla of evidence ever came to the files of this office which offered any basis for any individual opinion entertained or expressed by any agent on the guilt or innocence of these men. In fact as far as I can gather it seemed to be the opinion of the agents that they believed Sacco and Vanzetti guilty of the murder altho this opinion could only have resulted from scrutiny and study of press reports of the trial from day to day.

Prior to the employment of Mr. William C. Thompson, who is undoubtedly an able trial lawyer in good standing in this district, the defense had engaged for several years an attorney named Fred Moore, who had been an assistant to Attorney Barrow in the trials of I. W. W. members on the Pacific Coast some years back. Mr. Moore in 1920 or 1921 attempted to ascertain the name and address of the informant from Agent West, but was referred to his divisional chief, Mr. Lamb, at New York City, by then Agent in Charge Hanrahan of Boston.

Special Agent Fred J. Weyand, you will recall, with others, was dropped from the rolls of this office on or about July 1, 1924. Prior to leaving, and while he was still in the service of the Government, he attempted to learn from Agent West the name and address of the informant, but suspecting his motive, was not informed. Incidentally he sent to Agent West a person named Ruzzimenti, an Italian, and a friend of Mr. Weyand's, with some foolish pretext for ascertaining the desired information, which was refused.

Reference is made in the communication of Mr. Thompson to Mr. Weyand as being a Special Agent of the Attorney-General of Maine. In explanation of that office, the writer understands that the Attorney-General of that State has been empowered to engage private detectives from time to time and issues such cards to them, paying them when employed. A recent rumor, as yet not confirmed, is to the effect that Mr. Weyand was released from such position for some reason or other. However, any information which Mr. Weyand has or will furnish is or will not be reliable, and will be actuated, it is felt, by his hostility to the office by reason of his separation from the service.

At the present writing I am informed that there has been furnished to Attorney Thompson certain alleged facts with names and dates, all of which make it appear that he has had access to reports of this Bureau or what are alleged to have been reports of this Bureau.

It is possible, of course, that former Agent Weyand made up some sort of memorandum from a diary which he usually kept, although my informant stated that in view of the dates and names set out he was of the opinion that Mr. Thompson had access to what purported to have been reports, although the informant did not actually see the reports themselves.

7/8/26.

At the present writing I am also advised that by tomorrow Mr. Thompson will have an affidavit concerning the alleged activity of the the office in the case from former Special Agent in Charge Lawrence Letherman, who, also left the service on or about July 1, 1924.

Today former Agent John B. Hanrahan called at the Bureau office and advised of the receipt of a letter from Mr. Thompson, stating that Mr. Weyand had made an affidavit and wished to have him call, which he did. He will keep the office advised of what is desired from him.

This matter was first brought to my attention a few weeks ago by Special Agent West, of this office, who had been approached by Attorney Edward Flavin, Mr. West informing me of it at the same time. Mr. Flavin is an attorney in the large law office of former Mayor Nathan Matthews, in which office Mr. Thompson is also located. Mr. West advised him that while there was nothing that he knew of in the case that would be of any value with relation to the case of the Commonwealth, he could not in any event disclose to Mr. Thompson information of any kind as it belonged to the Government and not to him. Mr. Flavin felt assured this was so but wanted to know if he would merely appear to listen to what Mr. Thompson had to say but was informed that he could not do that for the reason that it was a State case and while a representative of this office such a conference might not be proper.

Since then Mr. Thompson has wanted to know the address of Mr. George E. Kelleher, who cannot be of any assistance to him in this case for the reason that Mr. Kelleher left this office, if recalled correctly, shortly after the arrest of the defendants upon an official assignment to Alaska.

On July 6th an investigator called at this office asking for Special Agent John J. Daly. Mr. Daly, as you know, was formerly in charge at Providence, R. I., and has been attached to this office since the Fall of 1924. The undersigned interrogated the caller and ascertained that he was a private detective in the employ of Attorney Cooney of Providence, R. I. and, incidentally, working for Mr. Thompson.

This caller showed Agent Daly a telegram from Thomas J. Callaghan, operative in charge of the U. S. Secret Service at Chicago, addressed to Attorney Cooney, from which it appeared that Cooney was inquiring of Callaghan what he, Callaghan, could relate concerning one [redacted] tro, supposedly the subject of an investigation on a charge of impersonation of a Government officer during the time that Mr. Callaghan was Special Agent in charge of the Bureau at Providence, R. I. It appears that Mr. Callaghan referred Mr. Cooney to [redacted] an operative of the U. S. Secret Service at Providence, R. I., who professed ignorance of the matter and suggested that they take up the matter with Mr. Daly. This investigator sought to learn what this office had in its file in reference to this person, and, in particular, any connection he had with one Medeiros and some unknown woman.

I interrogated this investigator and learned that Mr. Cooney was conducting certain investigations for Mr. Thompson and hoped to show that

7/8/26.

Tatro, Medeiros, the unknown woman, and several unknown associates, were responsible for the crime for which Sacco and Vanzetti had been found guilty and are now awaiting execution. Needless to say, he was given no information but advised to have Mr. Cooney or Mr. Thompson take the matter up with you.

With reference to the third paragraph of Mr. Thompson's letter relative to one Celestine Medeiros and the "Morelli gang", it may be stated that the office knows nothing of that other than what is contained in the letter and cannot comment upon the same.

Since I started the preparation of this letter an informant who has been to the office of Mr. Thompson and read the affidavit of Fred Weyand has advised me that the affidavit is prepared in language and sets forth incidents and the dates of their happenings so minutely and with such accuracy that it does not seem that the affidavit could have been prepared from information, on the radical situation, retained in the mind of Fred J. Weyand and it is the impression of the informant that in some manner Mr. Thompson has had recourse to reports of this Bureau and in this connection I invite your attention to that portion of this letter appearing heretofore wherein reference is made to the interest shown by Fred J. Weyand, while attached to this office, and on which occasion he sought to secure from Mr. West the name of the undercover man placed in the jail at Dedham and appeared aggrieved because he could not secure this information. At the time this occurred, I dare say, Mr. Weyand could have secured radical reports from this Bureau or made transcripts of them in whole or in part. Mr. Weyand has not visited this office within the past two years and while I am advancing no charge because I cannot support one I am merely trying to account for the possession of any report by Mr. Thompson, if he has it, which furnished the basis for the preparation of the affidavit of Mr. Weyand.

I understand that in his affidavit he mentions the names of Agent West and former Agent Ferri Felix Weis and affirmatively relates therein that the Bureau of Investigation at Boston and the office of the County Prosecutor for the counties of Plymouth and Dedham had entered into some agreement whereby they would furnish one another information, that is to say, that the Bureau of Investigation would supply information concerning Sacco and Vanzetti in return for information supplied by the County Prosecutor concerning the Wall Street Bomb Explosion and that certain correspondence passing between this office and the County Prosecutor on this feature of the matter, was or is a part of the local office files of the Bureau.

It is this correspondence that Mr. Thompson, no doubt, hopes to examine if he is accorded permission to examine the files but I am assured by Agent West that no agreement of this kind was entered into, that no correspondence of the character alleged ever existed and that the only occasion that he conferred with Mr. Katzman was on the occasion that he, at the behest of George Lamb, arranged for placing an undercover man in the Dedham Jail.

If the preceding paragraph accurately sets forth the hopes and intentions of Mr. Thompson it is evident that he will attempt to show, in seeking a new trial, the existence of a conspiracy between agents of the local office of the Bureau and the County Prosecutor to convict Sacco and Vanzetti of the crime for which they await execution, because they were anarchists.

7/8/26.

It is felt necessary to bring to your attention these facts in reference to Mr. Thompson, not in criticism of his course of action in dealing with former agents or employees if he feels that he can benefit his clients thereby, but in order that the same may be brought to your attention. It would appear proper, if the writer may be permitted to say so, for Mr. Thompson in dealing with former employees to communicate with the Department in advance. The writer also questions the right of such former employees to impart any information gained by them while employed in the service of the Government even though given while subsequently separated from the service.

In concluding, it is desired to state that agreeing with Mr. Thompson that he has no sympathy with their radical opinions, yet, in answer to his statement that he "feels that it is of the utmost importance that the whole truth in reference to the specific crime of which they are accused should be disclosed", must reply that in a case in which the Commonwealth charges the defendants with murder the undersigned fails to see wherein the office can assist Mr. Thompson unless it has information bearing upon the innocence or guilt of the two defendants, which it has not. Early in the progress of the case speakers espousing the cause of the defendants used to charge the Department with knowing of their activities on behalf of Salsedo, with following them, and with having them arrested on the present murder charge, which, if true, would have indicated a conspiracy between the Bureau, or its representatives, and the Massachusetts authorities to arrest and charge with murder these minor exponents of an anarchistic doctrine, which, as it believed has been already indicated herein, was not possible for the reason that they were apparently unknown to the office at the time of their arrest, in which the office had no interest or participation at the time.

Very truly yours,



JOHN A. DOWD

Special Agent in Charge.

JAD:MFD

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XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

61-126-701

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CONFIDENTIAL

Department of Justice

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Class
DATE 7/17/82 ag

Class. & Ext. By SP-8BJ/LMC
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 6/29/92

Boston, MA

Director

Reference Sacco-Vanzetti matter. Attempting to carry out your instructions I telephoned Thompsons office to let him know that West and myself were prepared to confer with him concerning subject matter and to arrange appointment. He inquired if I had been instructed by the Attorney General to turn over to him the files of this office. I stated I had no such instructions but was prepared to call on him with West and discuss the matter. He immediately became angry, stating did not want to see me or West or talk with either unless prepared turn over files. Stated he had granted sufficient time and would place matter before court. Stated did not want to talk with West unless prepared to tell truth and that he had affidavit showing number of Agents who had worked on case and number who covered trial and that our files were full of information and that we had placed spies in the jail. He interspersed his remarks with considerable profanity and angry words and inquired if I thought I could railroad people to jail and kill them because they were anarchists. I inquired if he would specify what he wanted in files. he responded as best I can quote him Quote: Specify nothing I want every damn thing in your files and you better telephone Washington without delay unquote.



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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

July 14, 1926.

7/14/26

61-126-702

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

I am attaching hereto for your information
a copy of a telegram which I have received from my
Agent in Charge at Boston and which details the con-
versation which he had over the telephone with Mr.
W. G. Thompson, the attorney for Sacco and Vanzetti.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.

Encl.

Returned by A.G.
7/16/26 JET

File
JET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/22/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/K

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

July 13, 1926. 6-126-7

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/24/82 BY SP-8ATS/uc

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

*File
Jas*

In accordance with our understanding, I called the Agent in Charge of my Boston office today by long distance and instructed him to immediately communicate with Mr. Thompson, the attorney for Sacco and Vanzetti and to confer with Mr. Thompson relative to Mr. Thompson's request for some information in our files in the Sacco-Vanzetti case. I informed Mr. Dowd, the Agent in Charge at Boston, that I wanted him to inquire of Mr. Thompson exactly what he wanted and to furnish Mr. Thompson with such information as he felt was entirely proper and should Mr. Thompson make any request for information about which Mr. Dowd had a doubt should be supplied him, he should inform Mr. Thompson that he would submit the request to Washington by long distance and we would pass upon the matter here. I impressed upon Mr. Dowd our desire to handle the matter courteously and with full consideration for Mr. Thompson. Mr. Dowd assured me that he would at once get in touch with Mr. Thompson.

I have just received a long distance telephone call from Mr. Dowd in which he informed me that he called Mr. Thompson's office for the purpose of arranging an appointment so that he, together with Agent West, who was familiar with the details in this matter, might call upon Mr. Thompson. Mr. Thompson inquired of Mr. Dowd as to whether or not he, Mr. Dowd, had received instructions to turn over all of the files in the Sacco-Vanzetti case to him. Mr. Dowd informed Mr. Thompson that he had not received instructions to that effect but that he had received instructions to see him and obtain from him detailed information as to what he wanted and to furnish him with the same if it was available. Mr. Dowd informed me that Mr. Thompson became very abusive and told Mr. Dowd that he would get the files before he got through and accused the Department of having "railroaded" Sacco and Vanzetti. Mr. Dowd informed me that he did not enter into any controversy with Mr. Thompson but let Mr. Thompson do the talking. The result, of course, was that Mr. Thompson refused to see Mr. Dowd and engaged in this abusive attitude.

I requested Mr. Dowd to wire me fully the details of the matter and as soon as the telegram is received I will forward it to you, but I wanted you to know of this development in the meantime in the event Mr. Thompson should endeavor to communicate with you.

Mr. Thompson seemed to be of the impression that all the files of the Bureau in this case would be turned over to him in bulk and he would not be satisfied with anything else being done.

*Returned by
7/16/26*

ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
AND REFER TO INITIALS.

HPW-FL

Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office,

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS,

FEDERAL BUILDING.

Boston, July 15, 1926.

J. Edgar Hoover, Esq.,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

JUL 20 1926

RECORDED
61-126-704
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 18 1926
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Dist. One
Dist. Two

FL
b
This afternoon I have talked over with Mr. Dowd and [REDACTED] the result of their thorough investigation of the files of the Department in reference to the Sacco case and the investigation of the Wall Street bombing. There is nothing in the files previous to May 5, 1920, the date of the arrest of Sacco and Vanzetti.

In November, 1920, when Sacco was imprisoned in the House of Correction at Dedham, Massachusetts, an informant was placed in an adjoining cell to see if from Sacco any information could be obtained in reference to the Wall Street affair. After a few days the informer was removed without procuring any information other than that Sacco said he was an anarchist and was innocent of the South Braintree crime.

This man was placed in the House of Correction at the request of the Federal authorities in New York and not at the request of the County District Attorney.

The papers in the file deal with the general investigation of radical activities in Boston and elsewhere, with particular reference to the said Wall Street bombing. I believe it might be harmful to the Government to have the result of these investigations divulged to any one without the service. Absolutely nothing has been found which would be of any assistance to either of the present defendants, or which could be made a basis for any action on the part of their counsel to obtain any new trial.

As I understand the Attorney General is taking a personal interest in this matter, I shall be obliged if you will bring my letter to his attention.

Respectfully,



Harold P. Williams,
United States Attorney.

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Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,
Boston, Mass.

July 17, 1926.

PERSONAL

and

CONFIDENTIAL.

DECLASSIFIED BY SA 887J/mc
ON 6/29/82

JUL 30 1926

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

8507

64-126
71-126-705
JUL 30 1926

Dear Sir:

In the case of Commonwealth v. Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, Nos. 5145 and 5546, now pending in the Criminal Session of the Superior Court for Norfolk County, Massachusetts, upon motion for a new trial, affidavits have been submitted by defense counsel signed by Messrs. Fred J. Weyand and Lawrence Letherman, formerly Agents attached to this office. Copies of the said affidavits are attached hereto.

Mr. Fred J. Weyand, it appears from the files of this office, was first employed as an informant in March of 1917 and prior to that had been a private detective for some years. Eventually he was appointed a Special Agent and on July 3, 1924, when a reorganization of the Boston office was made, his resignation was requested by Washington and the same became effective after expiration of annual leave on August 2, 1924.

Mr. Lawrence Letherman was appointed to this office as a Special Agent on October 4, 1921; on March 6, 1922, superseded Mr. Charles A. Bancroft, who was also appointed on or about October 4, 1921, as Special Agent in Charge, and on July 11, 1924, Washington requested his resignation, which became effective on July 26, 1924. Mr. Letherman had been a Post Office Inspector for some years up to about 1910 or 1911, when as a result of an investigation he was separated from that service and for some time after that was in charge of the Boston office of the William J. Burns Detective Agency. It is to be noted, however, that from the time of his separation from the Postal Service in 1910, or 1911, or thereabouts, until his appointment to this Bureau in 1921 he was not in the service of the Government.

In the affidavit of Mr. Weyand he makes reference to the so-called raids of January 2, 1920. These related to arrests of members of the Communist Party of America and had

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no reference to anarchists, which the two defendants claim they are.

On page two of his affidavit he states:

"Sometime before the arrest of Sacco and Vanzetti on May 5, 1920 -- just how long before I do not remember -- the names of both of them had got on the files of the Department of Justice as radicals to be watched. The Boston files of the Department, including correspondence, would show the date when the names of these men were first brought to the attention of the Department. Both these men were listed in the files as followers or associates of an educated Italian editor named Galleani. Galleani was the publisher of an anarchist paper. He lived in Wrentham and published his paper, I think, in Lynn. Among other persons associated with Galleani were Carlo Tresca, Carlo Valdinoci, and David Tedesco. The suspicion entertained by the Department of Justice against Sacco and Vanzetti was that they had violated the Selective Service Act, and also that they were anarchists or held radical opinions of some sort or other."

The undersigned and Special Agent West, of this office, on July 15, 1926, made a thorough search of the indexes in the file section and a review of reports on file in reference to the Sacco and Vanzetti matter and can find nothing prior to the date of their arrest on May 5, 1920, to indicate the above statement is true, with the possible exception of a small card bearing the name of Bartolomeo Vanzetti which was found long after the arrest of this defendant in a lot of rubbish in the office and is presumed to have been a card taken in some anarchist raid back in 1918, presumably at the time of the arrest of Luigi Galleani although there is nothing on the card to indicate its source. As stated, however, a search of our indexes fails to show the indexing of any Nicole Sacco or Bartolomeo Vanzetti prior to the time of their arrest by the State authorities on May 5, 1920.

Further, Agent West advises that while he knew of Luigi Galleani, Carlo Tresca and Carlo Valdinoci, amongst others in the so-called radical movement, he never knew that Sacco and Vanzetti existed until about the time of their arrest on the State charge in May of 1920, and that all of the information on file with reference to them has been secured since that time, through written and oral statements issued as propaganda on their behalf, through the testimony of both defendants at the time of their trial in 1921 and through research work after that.

Therefore, it is plainly evident to the writer that if these men had been active in the anarchist movement -- which we cannot doubt in view of their protestations of such activity -- they were at least known to Mr. West of this office at that time.

Mr. Feri F. Weiss, referred to by Mr. Weyand in page two of his affidavit, was transferred from the U. S. Immigration Service to this office, as a Special Agent, on or about April 1, 1917, and continued until November 1, 1919, when he resigned. During that period he was engaged principally upon intelligence work, alleged violations of the Espionage Act, alien enemy activities, investigations of radical activities, etc., while Mr. West was engaged generally on the usual violations of the Criminal Code, although the latter did from time to time assist Mr. Weiss in his work, and when Mr. Weiss left the service on November 1, 1919, his work was turned over to Mr. West, who continued the same.

On page three of his affidavit, Mr. Weyand states:

"We also assigned a certain 'under-cover' man, as we called them, to win the confidence of the Sacco-Vanzetti Committee, and to become one of the collectors. This man used to report the proceedings of the Committee to the Department agents in Boston and has said to me that he was in the habit of taking as much money collected for his own use as he saw fit."

This statement is decidedly untrue, for the reason that no so-called "under-cover" man was ever used in the Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee, or ever became a member of it, or ever reported any of its proceedings. That committee had its headquarters at No. 256 Hanover street, Boston, Mass., and no employee of this office, under-cover man or otherwise, so far as is known, was ever in that office. Mr. Weyand evidently refers to an informant who was employed at that time in the local headquarters of the Communist Party of America., at which no doubt the case was discussed, but he had no connection with the Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee at 256 Hanover street, Boston.

On page four of his affidavit Mr. Weyand states:

"I was assigned to cover the trial for the purpose of reporting the proceedings and picking up any information I could in regard to the radical activities of Sacco and Vanzetti or of any of their friends. Mr. West also attended the trial for the same purpose. I was not personally in touch with Mr. Kitzman, the District Attorney, or his office, but Mr. West was in touch with them."

7/17/1926.

and was giving and obtaining information in regard to the case."

The trial of the case of the Commonwealth v. Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti was commenced in June of 1921 and ended in a verdict of guilty on July 14, 1921. So far as can be ascertained at the present time from our records there is no indication that Mr. Weyand was present during the trial. At any rate he is wholly in error in stating that Mr. West was present during the trial. There was present in and about the court-house for the purpose of obtaining information in regard to so-called radical activities and for the purpose of observing any radicals from out of this district who might be present, Agent [redacted] then of this office, Agent [redacted] of the New York City office, and, for a short time, two members of the New York Police bomb squad. Mr. West was not in communication with District Attorney Katzman during the trial nor did Mr. Katzman ask any information concerning radicals from him at that time. When Mr. Weyand states he attended the trial, he probably refers to attending a hearing on a motion for a new trial on October 29, 1921, and November 5, 1921, on which dates the then Agent in Charge, Mr. Charles A. Bancroft, went with Mr. Weyand, Mr. West, Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] to Dedham, Mass., he, Mr. Bancroft deeming it necessary in view of demonstrations reported as threatening.

The Mr. Ruzzamenti referred to as a friend of Mr. Feri Weiss, Mr. Weiss now being a U. S. Immigration Inspector at Chicago, Illinois, was in fact a friend of Mr. Weyand's, as Mr. and Mrs. Ruzzamenti called at the Boston office of the Bureau from time to time to see Mr. Weyand and Mr. Weyand was always trying to obtain employment for her husband. The only connection Mr. West ever had with him was in 1917 when upon one occasion only he was assigned to assist Mr. West, as an interpreter, proved useless and was never again used by him. He is the same person, as previously reported Mr. Weyand, while still in the service of the Government, sent to Mr. West under a ridiculous pretext to see if he could ascertain the name of an informant used at the Dedham jail. Whatever connection he had with Mr. Weiss after Mr. Weiss left the service of the Government is not known and does not interest the office, and whatever connection Messrs. Ruzzamenti or Weiss had with District Attorney Katzman in the case is not known to this office, nor does it interest the office.

With reference to the informant, Carbone, referred to in the affidavit of Mr. Weyand, it may be stated that on September 1, 1920, a bomb was exploded in Wall Street, New York City, resulting in the death of thirty or more persons. During that Fall as all leads became exhausted and as reports from radical meetings held behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti, together with publications, seemed to indicate that they had been prominent in the so-called anarchist

7/17/1920

movement, and as that entire movement seemed to center in Boston around the so-called Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee, which was circularizing the entire world, Mr. George F. Lamp, in charge of the New York City office of the Bureau, under which office the Boston office was then a sub-office, thought some information might eventually reach either one of these two defendants, in view of the fact that the newspapers devoted much space to the Wall Street affair. Therefore, pursuant to instructions, Mr. West in October or November of 1920 inquired of District Attorney Katzman if arrangements could be made without interference in his case to place an informant in the Dedham jail, solely for the purpose of seeing if any clue or clues could be obtained to the perpetrators of that outrage. A conference was had with Mr. Katzman and Sheriff Capen at Dedham, Mass., and both saw no objection to the same. This was done on behalf of the Government and not at the solicitation of Mr. Katzman, and, as far as can be recalled by Mr. West, this was the first and only time he ever met Mr. Katzman. At any rate he is positive he never spoke with him on more than two occasions, and those occurred about that time.

In accordance with that arrangement, on November 24, 1920, the informant reported to the Boston office from Mr. Lamb and was placed in the Dedham jail. He was instructed carefully that he was not to approach Mr. Sacco, nor was he under any circumstances to refer to anarchist activities, but was to let the man approach him. On December 1st, 1920, a complaint was made from the jail that through his haste to secure information he had disclosed himself and rendered himself useless. On December 3, 1920, he was taken out of there and directed to report to Mr. Lamb.

b7C

One of the very early reports in reference to the Sacco-Vanzetti case is that made by Agent [redacted] under date of August 30, 1920, which was made in answer to a letter from Special Agent [redacted] Newark, New Jersey, office, dated April 15, 1920, reporting that a number of persons in the Boston district were to receive copies of an anarchist manifesto written by one Ludovico Caminita. The original letter, copy of which is incorporated in report of [redacted] is not in the file, but it is assumed that it probably contained the name of Vanzetti. No investigation apparently was made until August 30, 1920, at which time [redacted] obtained information contained in the records of the State Prison in reference to Mr. Vanzetti, who had been sentenced for the Bridgewater affair on August 16, 1920.

That was followed by a letter from the Bureau under date of October 19, 1920, initialed TFB-EMR, directing that the matter of deportation be taken up with the local immigration authorities. Then under date of October 11, 1920, at which time Mr. West was under assignment to the New York City office, Mr. Lamb or that office asked information in reference to Sacco and Vanzetti, in

7/17/1926.

connection with the Wall Street Bomb Explosion. It is apparent from the report of then Agent [REDACTED], made October 13, 1920, that there could not have been anything in the files of the office concerning them as he secured his information from [REDACTED], and Inspector Brouillard of the Massachusetts State Police. b7c

In fact, in forwarding the report to the New York City office on October 13, 1920, [REDACTED], of the Boston office, in sending said report to then Agent in Charge John B. Hamrahan, of the Boston office, who happened to be in New York City at that time, states:

"Complying with request contained in memorandum attached to letter from Division Superintendent Lamb under date of October 11, 1920, I beg to advise that I have had a thorough search made of the files of this office and am unable to locate any additional information on Bartolomeo Vanzetti other than what is contained in Agent [REDACTED] reports, copies of which you took with you. In connection with Nicola Sacco, I am unable to find any information in our files, but I am enclosing herewith report of Agent [REDACTED] made today in regard to this subject."

Again, under date of October 14, 1920, (Agent Hamrahan apparently having returned to Boston) Mr. Hamrahan writes Mr. Lamb at New York City as follows:

"Referring to your letter of October 11th on subjects (in re: Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco), you will find enclosed the history and record of Vanzetti as shown by his State Prison Record. All the available information which we have on Sacco was sent to you on the 13th. This covers all the information which we have on Vanzetti and any additional information gathered on subjects will be immediately forwarded to you."

Again, under date of October 16, 1920, Mr. John B. Hamrahan, Special Agent in Charge at Boston, Mass., addressed Mr. George F. Lamb, New York City, as follows:

"Referring to suggestion of Mr. Flynn and yourself that Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco be worked on in connection with the Wall Street Explosion, it is desired to inform that Sacco has not yet been sentenced and that Vanzetti's followers and sympathizers are active at the present time in attempting to secure a new trial for him so that there does not seem much possibility of obtaining

7/17/1928

any information from them by direct methods. The only thing that suggests itself is that an Italian attempt to 'rope' Vanzetti. It would be an easy matter to place someone in Vanzetti's cell. We have no one available in this vicinity for such an assignment and possibly you or Mr. Flynn could furnish such a person. Will you kindly call this to Mr. Flynn's attention?"

As previously stated, following the above letter and further instructions from New York the informant was used with no result of value in securing information desired as to the Wall Street affair and with only the statement of Mr. Sacco to the informant that he was innocent of the crime with which he was charged

You will note that further in his affidavit Mr. Weyand states:

"The understanding in this case between the agents of the department of Justice in Boston and the District Attorney followed the usual custom, that the Department of Justice would help the District Attorney to secure a conviction, and that he in turn would help the agents of the Department of Justice to secure information that they might desire. This would include the turning over of any pertinent information by the Department of Justice to the District Attorney. x x x There is correspondence between Mr. Katzman and Mr. West on file in the Boston office of the Department. Mr. West furnished Mr. Katzman information about the radical activities of Sacco and Vanzetti to be used in their cross examination."

This statement of Mr. Weyand's is decidedly inaccurate, if not false. The District Attorney was trying the defendants for an alleged murder and not because they were anarchists. No such arrangement was made between this office and the District Attorney, although if the office had any pertinent information it would have felt impelled to turn it over to him, but he had the assistance of the State Detective force and required no such assistance, and, further, no one in the office had then or has now any information about the commission of the crime alleged. Further, Mr. Katzman, the District Attorney, never asked assistance in developing their radical activities; in fact, at the trial their entire activity in the so-called anarchist movement was brought out, not on cross examination by the State but on direct examination by their own counsel.

7/17/1926

It is reported that during the course of the trial a conference was had with Judge Thayer, presiding at the trial, in which the defence counsel are reported to have stated that in the matter of consciousness of guilt, it is believed, the defence in order to meet the issues raised by the State would have to introduce the activities of these men as so-called anarchists. Before doing this, it is reported, Judge Thayer suggested that the defence counsel discuss the problem with some prominent trial attorney and they accordingly conferred with the present counsel, Mr. William G. Thompson who recommended that their radical activities be introduced, and from that that feature was injected into the trial. However, the District Attorney never sought any information from this office concerning such activities.

The only thing that Mr. Katzman ever desired, in his conference with Mr. West, was an anxiety to locate any trace of \$15,000 stolen at the time and the location of one Mike Boda. The Boston office did ask the New York City office to make inquiry there with reference to holdings of Carlo Tresca and the Italian Workers Defence League, which inquiry developed nothing of value. Further than this, the only communications appearing in the files of the Boston office in reference to the Sacco-Vanzetti case either from two Mr. Katzman, the District Attorney, is a letter dated August 6, 1921, from Special Agent in Charge Hanrahan to Frederick G. Katzman, District Attorney for Norfolk County, inclosing translations of articles appearing in radical publications at that time, and a letter from Mr. Katzman under date of August 9th, 1921, thanking him the same. These were sent for his information because of their threatening aspect.

b7c

Toward the end of his affidavit Mr. Weyand refers to an Italian "under-cover" agent, whom he alleges was placed as a linotypist in an Italian newspaper to act as a spy. There he apparently refers to Special Agent [REDACTED], now attached to the Pittsburgh office. Sometime in 1922, it is believed, [REDACTED] severed his connection with the service and returned or was re-instated in 1922. During some of that time he was out of employment and he himself secured a position as a linotypist on the Gazette del Massachusetts, where he was employed up to the time of his reinstatement. He secured that place for himself, was not placed there as a spy, and the paper on which he was employed is not and was not a radical publication.

Adverting to the affidavit of Mr. Ietherman, reference had to second paragraph thereof, in which he states:

"While I was Post Office Inspector I co-operated to a considerable extent with the agents of the Department of Justice, in Boston in matters of joint concern, including the Sacco-Vanzetti case."

7/17/1926.

Upon its face such statement is so highly ridiculous that it hardly merits reply. However, suffice it to say that Mr. Iethermen left the Postal Service some years ago, presumably 1910 or 1911, while the Sacco-Vanzetti case was unknown until May 5, 1920.

Later he states, "I know that Mr. West co-operated with Mr. Katzman, the District Attorney, during the trial of the case, and later with Mr. Williams." It is true that after the conviction of the defendants Agent West had a number of conversations or conferences with Mr. Williams, the present U. S. Attorney at Boston, concerning matters having nothing to do with the conviction of the defendants but information referred to the Boston office emanating from the Atlanta Penitentiary which the Bureau suggested should be brought to the attention of the State authorities, namely, allegations made that Attorney Moore, then counsel for the defense, was trying to buy confessions from two inmates of the Federal Penitentiary.

Attention is also invited to another unfounded statement of Mr. Iethermen that a number of so-called "under cover" agents were assigned to the case, before, during and after the trial, including one Ruzzamenti and one Carbone. The files of the Bureau will show that no one named Ruzzamenti was ever employed in connection with any investigations concerning Sacco and Vanzetti.

Again he states, "The Department of Justice in Boston was anxious to get sufficient evidence against Sacco and Vanzetti to deport them, but never succeeded in getting the kind and amount of evidence required for that purpose; it was the opinion of the Department Agents here that a conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti for murder would be one way of disposing of these two men." Were these men available for deportation, all that would be necessary would be a transcript of their evidence taken at the trial, although they no doubt would readily admit being anarchists. This statement is a most vicious one and can only be characterized as a figment of imagination, or else that of a displeased former employee stooping to this in order to appease his wrath against the Department as a whole.

Again Mr. Iethermen states, "One of the men employed by West at the time of the Sacco-Vanzetti case was named Shughnessey; he was subsequently convicted of highway robbery and is now serving a term in Massachusetts State Prison." This statement is also decidedly inaccurate if not knowingly untrue. For a time during 1916 there was employed as an informant in the Boston office a person named Shughnessey, who was summarily dismissed for a violation of the office regulations and since then he has never had any connection with the office and, so far as is known, has never been inside the Bureau office. He never

7/17/26,


worked with Mr. West and the latter has never had any relations with him since his removal from the service, nor did he know him prior to his entrance to the service or have anything to do with his employment at any time.

While the present communication is lengthy, it was felt necessary to go into detail in order to bring to your attention the result of the examination of the files of this office having to do with the Wall Street Bomb Explosion and the Sacco-Vanzetti case, all of which plainly indicates to the undersigned that although these men were arrested on May 5, 1920, no report concerning them emanated from this office until August of that year; that they were apparently unknown to the office up to the time of their arrest; that the office never in any way had anything to do with their arrest, never communicated with the presiding justice or any member of the jury, never interviewed any witness in relation to the case, never assisted the county prosecuting attorney to prepare the case, and never had anything to do with the defendants, other than an investigation of so-called radical activities on their behalf which arose after their arrest and were instigated by the so-called Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee of Boston.

The assistant district attorney for Norfolk County, Massachusetts, now handling the matter for the State, appeared at this office yesterday and desired to know if it would be agreeable to have Agent West of this office submit an affidavit setting out in general, the interest of the Government in the matter at that time, so as to meet the allegations contained in the aforesaid affidavits which have been filed with the motion for a new trial. While he feels that both affidavits are, from an evidentiary point of view, worthless yet felt it would be well to have an affidavit from the office to set out the situation in its true light and settle it once and for all.

May I ask, therefore, that upon receipt of this letter you give it your immediate attention and wire or telephone me on July 19th your wishes in the matter?

Very truly yours,


John A. Dowd,
Special Agent in Charge.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

NORFOLK, ss

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

Nos. 5645 and 5646

Criminal Session.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

REOLA SACCO and BARTOLOMEO VANSETTI

8508

AFFIDAVIT OF FRED J. WYLAND

My name is Fred J. Wyland. I reside in Portland, Maine. I am a Special Agent of the Attorney General's office of the State of Maine, and have been since I resigned as an agent of the Department of Justice about a year and a half ago.

I became connected with the Department of Justice in the year 1911 and shortly afterwards became a Special Agent with an office first at 84 Milk Street, Boston, later at 45 Milk Street, and later at 7 Water Street, where the Department had offices on the eighth floor, and later at the Post Office Building. My duties as Special Agent were in general to investigate and report upon any and all violations of the penal code which I might be assigned to investigate by my superiors, who were first Frederick Smith, next George E. Kelliher, next John Hanrahan, and next Charles Bancroft, and last Lawrence Letherman. These were my superiors while I was working from the Boston office. I occasionally worked in other parts of the country and then came under other superiors temporarily. I was a Special Agent during the entire administration of Mitchell Palmer, Attorney General of the United States, and was concerned in the activities against the so-called Reds or Radicals, including arrests and deportations which were suggested by Mr. Palmer, and which included the whole of the year 1920, in some of which I participated. I was present at the arrest of Sacco and Vanzetti on May 5, 1920. I do not remember -- the names of both of them had got into the Department of Justice as Radicals to be watched. The Department, including correspondence, would show the date at which they were first brought to the attention of the Department and were listed in the files as followers or associates of a man whose name was Galleani. Galleani was the publisher of an

8533

anarchistic paper. He lived in Wrentham and published his paper, I think in Lynn. Among other persons associated with Galleani were Carlo Tresca, Carlo Valdanoci, and David Tedesco. The suspicion entertained by the Department of Justice against Sacco and Vanzetti was that they had violated the Selective Service Act, and also that they were anarchists or held Radical opinions of some sort or other.

A man named Feri Felix Weiss was transferred from the Immigration Bureau to the Department of Justice in Boston in the year 1917, and remained a Special Agent of that Department in Boston until 1919, I think. He then travelled abroad, and returned in 1920 and opened an office as a scientific detective and lecturer at 7 Water Street, Boston, with an office on the floor below the floor occupied by the Department of Justice. In 1925 Weiss returned to the Immigration Department at Boston, where he is at the present time.

William J. West, who is now a Special Agent of the Department of Justice, became such in July or August, 1917. Prior to that he was an Immigration Inspector with Feri Weiss. Since his appointment as a Special Agent he has spent most of his time in the Boston office of the Department of Justice, having in charge during the past seven years the so-called Radical Division of the Department of Justice, which has been in operation since 1917.

During the year 1920 I did a good deal of work in the State of Maine, but was in Boston for several days at least once every two weeks. I have knowledge that the result of the trial before Judge Anderson of the Radicals or Communists, as we call them, arrested at the time of the raids above referred to, and of the decision of Judge Anderson freeing many of them, and of his criticisms of the Department of Justice, was to make all the Agents of the Department of Justice in Boston more cautious afterwards in proceeding against suspected Radicals.

Shortly after the arrest of Sacco and Vanzetti on the charge of the South Braintree murders, meetings began to be held by sympathizers, and I was assigned to attend these meetings and report to the Department the proceedings. We also assigned a certain "under cover" man, as we called them, with the confidence of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee, and to become one of the collectors. This man used to report the proceedings of the

Committee to the Department agents in Boston, and has said to me that he was the habit of taking as much money collected for his own use as he saw fit. far as I know, no evidence was obtained of utterances at any of these meetings which warranted proceedings against anybody. Mr. West was also attending meetings of Sacco-Vanzetti sympathizers during the same period. The original reports thus obtained were sent to the Washington office of the Department of Justice, and duplicates kept in the Boston office, where I believe they now are. I know that at one time as many as twelve agents of the Department of Justice located in Boston were assigned to cover Sacco-Vanzetti meetings and other Radical activities connected with the Sacco-Vanzetti case. No evidence was discovered warranting the institution of proceedings against anybody. I have no present recollection of any activities of the Department of Justice in Boston in connection with the trial of Vanzetti for the alleged Bridgewater robbery; but when the joint trial of Sacco and Vanzetti for the South Braintree murders began in the summer of 1921, the Department of Justice at Boston took an active interest in the matter. I was assigned to cover the trial for the purpose of reporting the proceedings and picking up any information that I could in regard to the Radical activities of Sacco and Vanzetti, or of any of their friends. Mr. West also attended the trial for the same purpose. I was not personally in touch with Mr. Katzmann, the District Attorney, or his office, but Mr. West was in touch with them and was giving and obtaining information regard to the case.

Going back now before the trial, a certain John Russamenti had been informally employed by special agents of the Department of Justice from some time in the year 1917, to furnish information concerning Radical activities and dissemination of the draft by Italians, and in this connection had made an investigation of Tedesco, above referred to, who was once arrested in consequence of information furnished by Russamenti, but was never tried. During this time Russamenti also worked occasionally for detective agencies. He was well known to Weiss. I have been informed by Mr. West and believe, and therefore allege, that there was another Italian whom the Department occasionally used for similar purposes, named Carbone, and that he, under an arrangement with the District Attorney, the Sheriff, and Mr. Weiss, was placed in the cell next to the cell of Sacco sometime during the year 1920 for the purpose of winning the confidence of

of Sacco, and thus of obtaining, if he could, incriminating evidence against him, but that no evidence of the sort was obtained by Carbone. The prime purpose of the Department in putting Carbone there was to obtain evidence, if possible, concerning the so-called Wall Street explosion; but it was hoped that other incriminating evidence might be obtained.

Sometime in the early part of the year 1921 I was informed by Buscament, that he had been sent for by Weiss, who was then out of Government service, to come on here to help convict Sacco and Vanzetti; that he had Katemann; and that an arrangement had been made by which he was to secure board in the house of Mrs. Sacco and obtain her confidence, and thus obtain information; but that the arrangement had never been carried out, and he had not been paid. I annex to this affidavit photostatic copies of part in a letter which I identify as the handwriting of Weiss.

Shortly after the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti was concluded I told Weiss that I did not believe they were the right men, meaning the men who shot the paymaster, and he replied that that might be so, but that they had acted and would get what they deserved anyway.

Instructions were received from the Chief of the Bureau of the Department of Justice in Washington from time to time in reference to the Sacco-Vanzetti case. They are on file or should be on file in the Boston

The understanding in this case between the agents of the Department of Justice in Boston and the District Attorney followed the usual custom of the Department of Justice would help the District Attorney to secure a conviction, and that he in turn would help the agents of the Department of Justice to secure information that they might desire. This would include the turning over of any pertinent information by the Department of Justice to the District Attorney. Sacco and Vanzetti were, at least in the opinion of the Boston

Department of Justice, not liable to deportation as draft dodgers or anarchists, and could not be deported as anarchists unless it could

be shown that they were believers in anarchy, which is always a difficult thing to show. It can only be shown by self-incrimination. The Boston agents believed that these men were anarchists, and hoped to be able to secure necessary evidence against them from their testimony at their trial for use in case they were not convicted of murder. There is correspondence

between Mr. Katzman and Mr. West on file in the Boston office of the Department of Justice. Mr. West furnished Mr. Katzman information about the Radical activities of Sacco and Vanzetti to be used in their cross-examination. 651

In the years 1922-1924 Mr. West had working for him as "under cover" or secret operators an Italian and a Syrian or Armenian. The Italian was as a printer. I do not remember the names of either of them; but I know he put the Italian in as a linetypist in the office of an Italian newspaper in Boston as a spy. The Syrian or Armenian is the man to whom I have referred above as having become a collector for the Committee.

From my investigation, combined with the investigation made by other agents of the Department in Boston, I am convinced not only that these men had violated the Selective Service rules and regulations and evaded the draft, but that they were anarchists, and that they ought to have been drafted. By calling these men anarchists I do not mean necessarily that they were inclined to violence, nor do I understand all the different meanings that different people would attach to the word "anarchist". What I mean is that they did not believe in organized government or in private property. But I am also thoroughly convinced, and always have been, and I believe that is always has been the opinion of such Boston agents of the Department of Justice as had any knowledge on the subject, that these men had nothing whatever to do with the South Braintree murders, and that their conviction was the result of co-operation between the Boston agents of the Department of Justice and the District Attorney. It was the general opinion of the Boston agents of the Department of Justice having knowledge of the affair that the South Braintree crime was committed by a gang of professional highwaymen.

I annex hereto a picture of Mr. Fred Melix Weiss printed on the right side of one of his advertisements.

Fred J. Weyand

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Suffolk, ss

Boston, July 1, 1926.

Then personally appeared the above named Fred J. Weyand and made oath that the foregoing statement subscribed by him is true, except such statements as are expressed to be made upon information and belief, which statements he believes to be true. Before me,

Wm. C. Thompson Pease,
Justice of the Peace,

My commission expires
March 3, 1927.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DORPICK, ss

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

Nos. 3545 and 3546

Criminal Session

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

v.

NICOLA SACCO and BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI

AFFIDAVIT OF LAWRENCE LETHBRAN

My name is Lawrence Lethbram. I live in Malden, and am in the employ of the Beacon Trust Company. I was in the Federal service for thirty six years, first in the railway mail service for nine years; then as Post Office Inspector for twenty-five years; then three years as local agent of the Department of Justice in Boston in charge of the Bureau of Investigation. I began the named duties in September, 1921.

While I was Post Office Inspector I cooperated to a considerable extent with the agents of the Department of Justice in Boston in matters of concern, including the Sacco-Vanzetti case. The man under me in direct charge of matters relating to that case was Mr. William West, who is still attached to the Department of Justice in Boston. I know that Mr. West cooperated with Judge Katsmann, the District Attorney, during the trial of the case, and later with Mr. Williams. I know that before, during, and after the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti Mr. West had a number of so-called "under cover" men assigned to the case, including one Ruzsamenka, and one Carbone. I know that by an arrangement with the Department of Justice, Carbone was placed in a cell next to the cell of Sacco for the purpose of obtaining whatever incriminating information he could obtain from Sacco, after winning his confidence. Nothing, however, in that way. I also know that as a party to a plan to use him for the same purpose. On nearly an agent of the Department of Justice in this plan. He was run office at that time of the building at 7 or the offices. I was in touch with the I he other men in the building.

sired to use for that purpose objected.

8514

Before, during, and after the trial, the Department of Justice had a number of men assigned to watch the activities of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee. No evidence warranting prosecution of anybody was obtained by these men. They were all "under cover" men, and one or two of them obtained employment by the Committee in some capacity or other. I think one of them was a collector. The Department of Justice in Boston was anxious to get sufficient evidence against Sacco and Vanzetti to deport them, but never succeeded in getting the kind and amount of evidence required for that purpose. It was the opinion of the Department agents here that a conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti for murder would be one way of disposing of these two men. It was also the general opinion of such of the agents in Boston as had any actual knowledge of the Sacco-Vanzetti case, that Sacco and Vanzetti, although anarchists and agitators, were not highway robbers, and had nothing to do with the South Braintree crime. My opinion, and the opinion of most of the older men in the Government service, has always been that the South Braintree crime was the work of professionals.

The Boston agents of the Department of Justice assigned certain men to attend the trial of Sacco and Vanzetti, including Mr. Weyand. Mr. West attended the trial. There is or was a great deal of correspondence on file in the Boston office between Mr. West and Mr. Katzmann, the District Attorney, and there are also copies of reports sent to Washington about the case. Letters and reports were made in triplicate; two copies were sent to Washington and one retained in Boston. The letters and documents on file in the Boston office would throw a great deal of light upon the preparation of the Sacco-Vanzetti case for trial, and upon the real opinion of the Boston office of the Department of Justice as to the guilt of Sacco and Vanzetti of the particular crime with which

While being paid \$7.00 a day by the Government he became Secretary of some Communist or Radical organization in the vicinity of Boston, the proceedings of which he reported to the Department.

8515

LAWRENCE LETHERMAN

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Suffolk, ss.

Boston, July 8, 1926.

Then personally appeared the above named Lawrence Letherman and made oath that the foregoing statement subscribed by him is true, Before me,

Wm.G. Thompson

Justice of the Peace

My commission expires
March 3, 1927.

61-126-744

JUL 20 1928

July 18, 1928.

RECORDED

Mr. E. P. Williams,
United States Attorney,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Williams:

I received your communication of the 15th instant relative to the Snacco-Vansetti matter, and at once called your letter to the attention of the Attorney General. I believe that the matter is closed insofar as this Department is concerned.

I certainly appreciate your interest in this matter.

I am hoping to be in Boston within the course of the next week or ten days and will drop in and pay my respects to you.

With expression of my best regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Director.

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DATE 6/29/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mwc

Department of Justice

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

CONFIDENTIAL

BOSTON, MASS

DIRECTOR,
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF CLASS
DATE 5-4-52

REFERENCE SACOO VANZETTI STOP WHILE CONFERRING UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY
WILLIAMS TODAY HE WAS INVITED TO OFFICE SENATOR BUTLER STOP SACOO VANZETTI
MATTER AND THOMPSON'S REQUEST FOR FILES SUBJECT DISCUSSION STOP AFTER CONFERRING
WILLIAMS INTIMATED TO ME THAT BUTLER WILL STAND ALOOF NO POLITICAL PRESSURE
HE EXERTED STOP WILLIAMS WILL TELEPHONE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN LINE YOUR SUGGESTION
TO ME STOP BEFORE DOING SO HE WISHES ME FURNISH HIM OUTLINE WHAT FILES CONTAIN
SO HE CAN INTELLIGENTLY DISCUSS QUESTION WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL STOP OUTLINE
BEING PREPARED STOP FEEL SURE WILLIAMS WILL SUPPORT YOUR VIEWS HE IS SET AGAINST
THOMPSON'S REQUEST

ONE DOWN

Rec'd & [redacted] c
5:05 p.m.
*reg

61-126-706
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
[redacted]
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
I. D. One FILE

81
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OTHERWISE

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Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2
Date of Review 5/3/52

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

July 28, 1970

67-126-704

JUL 21 1970

61-126

Mr. J.A. Dowd,
P.O. Box 299,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

B1

With reference to your [redacted] instant concerning the Scarce-Vanetti case, I note that you are preparing an outline of the files in your office upon this case in order to furnish Mr. Williams with a copy of the same.

I wish that you would also forward a copy to me for my information and future use, if necessary.

I talked with the Attorney General a few days ago and showed him the letter which Mr. Williams wrote me. I understand that Mr. Thompson realizes his mistake now and is regretful of the attitude which he displayed towards you. However, I assume that the case is closed and unless you hear further from me, you will take no action in the matter.

Very truly yours,

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S)
DATE 7/12/70

Class. & Ext. By SP-8ATS/mc
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Date of Review 6/29/92 6/29/92

Director.

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Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,
Boston, Mass.

July 20, 1926.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

AND

ADVISED BY ROUTING

SERIALIZED *Deless*

DATE *7/17/83*

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: SACCO & VANZETTI MATTER

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir:

With further reference to my letter of July 17th, 1926, in the above entitled matter, and adverting particularly to telephone conversation which Mr. Harold Nathan had with me this morning concerning the suggestion of D. P. Ranney, Asst. District Attorney for the County of Norfolk and the State of Massachusetts, as set forth in my letter of July 17th to the effect that Mr. West make an affidavit concerning the activities of the Boston, Mass. Office of the Bureau in the SACCO and VANZETTI case in answer to the affidavits which William Thompson, Counsel for SACCO and VANZETTI, secured from Lawrence Letherman and Fred Weyand, former special agent in charge and special agent respectively, I wish to advise you that Mr. Ranney called at this office today to learn what opinion had been arrived at by the Bureau concerning the affidavit above referred to on the part of Mr. West.

I conveyed to Mr. Ranney the opinion arrived at which Mr. Nathan conveyed to me over the telephone and Mr. Ranney then inquired if we would be willing to permit Mr. William Thompson to come to the local office of the Bureau and submit such questions as he saw fit, in this matter, to Mr. West in the presence of Mr. Ranney.

I informed Mr. Ranney that I could not agree to any such arrangement and suggested that he take the matter up direct with you or with the Attorney General and when Mr. Ranney left this office it was understood that he would call on Mr. William Thompson and learn if Mr. Thompson intended to make what he, Thompson, alleges to be a conspiracy between the Bureau of Investigation and the District Attorney a subject of argument in his motion for a new trial.

Mr. Ranney stated that if Mr. Thompson intends to make it a subject of argument he, Ranney, would inform Thompson that he, Ranney, would proceed to Washington and confer with the Attorney General or yourself concerning the advisability of permitting Mr. Thompson to question Mr. West in the presence of Mr. Ranney in the local Bureau Office.

61-126-707

JUL 21 1926

RECORDED

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-9 BTJ/mc
ON 6/29/82

plus
W

Director

-2-

7/20/26.

In view of the above it is probable that Mr. Banney may call upon you or the Attorney General in this regard and I deem it proper that I should advise you of his probable visit.

Very truly yours,



JOHN A. DOWD
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD:MFD

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Hoover

July 21, 1926.

*File
yes*

61-126-

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

I am transmitting attached hereto a communication received this morning from the Agent in Charge of the Bureau's Boston office, relative to Sacco and Vanzetti.

This is for your information, particularly in view of the fact that it is stated therein that Mr. Ranney may call upon you in the near future.

Very truly yours,

W. Nathan

Enc. 256366

Acting Director.

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DATE 4/29/82 BY SP-8ARS/mc

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,
Boston, Mass.

July 22, 1926.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation, ~~APPROPRIATE AGENCIES~~
Department of Justice, ~~AND FIELD OFFICES~~
Washington, D. C. ~~ADMINISTRATIVE~~

Dear Sir:


PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

B/ Under date of July 20th, 1926 you wrote me with reference to my [redacted] inst. concerning the SACCO and VANZETTI case and in your letter you stated that you noted that I am preparing an outline of the files of this office upon this case in order to furnish Mr. Williams with a copy of the same and you further say that you would also like to have a copy for your information and future use.

Permit me to write that it was my intention to prepare such an outline but after conference with Mr. Williams it was not considered necessary and the action taken by me was an examination of the files, extracting such reports, letters and memoranda appearing therein which I considered material of too confidential a nature to expose to the examination of William G. Thompson, attorney for SACCO and VANZETTI, and I submitted same to Mr. Williams who agreed with me that it was of such a confidential nature that it should not be shown to anyone.

Very truly yours,

Class. & Ext. By SP-9075/mc
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Date of Review 6/29/92
6/29/92


JOHN A. DOWD
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD:MFED

JUL 27 1926

61-126-709

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER
JW:GAJ

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

61-126

920 91 90

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

July 21, 1926

DATE 4/23/62 BY SP-1013/62 MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

In re: SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE

In compliance with instructions from the Director of the Bureau relative to the subject as above captioned, the following is submitted as a summary of such information as is contained in the Bureau files in reference to the organization known as the SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE, which organization has been active since August or September, 1920, in soliciting defense funds and in agitational work on behalf of the defense of these two men.

NICOLA SACCO and BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI are two Italian anarchists now awaiting the execution of their sentences of death for first degree murder committed at S. Braintree, Massachusetts, on April 15, 1920, of which charge they were found guilty in the Superior Court of Norfolk County at Dedham, Massachusetts, on July 14, 1921. In addition to the charge of first degree murder upon which the two defendants have been found guilty, BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI was found guilty and is now serving a 15 year sentence in the Massachusetts State prison on a charge of attempted highway robbery at East Cambridge, Mass., on December 24, 1919.

It is not the intention of the writer to comment upon the evidence offered or the trial of either of the two cases mentioned above

nor to state the facts concerning either case but it is the primary purpose of this memorandum to give such facts relative to the promulgation of the anarchist ideas to which these two men were devout converts, also to give a brief exposition of the agitational work carried on in behalf of these two defendants by the SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE. With that purpose in mind and in order to present a clear exposition of the entire situation, it is deemed advisable to relate such information as is in the possession of the Bureau office concerning the two defendants, the inauguration and personnel of the DEFENSE COMMITTEE, and the activities of the said Committee. The two persons around whom the entire case centers are NICOLA FERDINANDO SACCO and BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI.

NICOLA FERDINANDO SACCO

SACCO was born in the Province of Foggia, Italy, (South) in 1881. When 17 years of age (1908) he came to the United States in company with brother, landing at the Port of Boston, and proceeded to the town of Milford, Mass., where he worked as a laborer for two years. In 1910 he became a shoe worker, learning the trade of an edge trimmer, and worked for three years in the "B-K" shoe factory at Stoughton, Mass. He also worked there at a subsequent date and was employed at this place at the time of the commission of the crime. In, or about 1910, SACCO became an anarchist and from 1910 onward was an avowed anarchist, being a reader of "La Cronaca Sovversiva", which it will be recalled was the publication of the well-known Italian Anarchist Luigi GALLI; he was also a subscriber to "Il Martello", the publication of Carlo Tresca, and to other radical publications. He also apparently became active in the agitational field

He was an active leader amongst the Italian workers during the strike at the plant of the Draper Manufactory at Hopedale, Mass., near Bedford, and was associated with Arturo Giovannitti in 1917. With the declaration of war by the United States on Germany, Sacco, following instructions contained in an article entitled "Martricolati" by Luigi GALLEANI advising Italian Anarchists not to submit to registration under the Selective Service Act, fled from this vicinity in company with a number of other Italian anarchists to Mexico. It will be recalled that at that time a number of the GALLEANI group, amongst them Carlo ^{Valdemucci} ~~Valdineini~~ a leading character, left Boston for Mexico in order to avoid registration under the Selective Service Act. SACCO resided in Monterey, Mexico, under the name of Nicola Moscatelli until 1918, returning presumably early in that year with BARTOLEMEO VANZETTI, who went to Mexico with him, and with one ~~COLOROSI~~. Enroute to Massachusetts from Mexico he remained for a short while in Ohio with a brother-in-law. On or about June 23, 1918, still under the assumed name of Nicola Moscatelli, SACCO addressed a letter from Haverhill, Mass., to one ~~PROSSI~~, at Youngstown, Ohio, also under the name of Nicola Moscatelli, Sacco was employed for a time at the Rice Hutchins Shoe Factory at S. Braintree, Mass.

In 1919 he returned to Stoughton, Mass., and resumed his employment at the 3-K Shoe Factory. In 1920 it will be recalled that Roberto Elia and Andrea Salsedo were arrested by the New York office of the Bureau as the result of information secured from previous arrests made of anarchists at Paterson, N.J. of the L'Era Nuova and the Francisco Ferrer Group. SACCO, in company with VANZETTI and other anarchists, became active on behalf of Elia and Salsedo who were under arrest at New York. As a result

of a meeting held by Italian anarchists in the Italian Independent Naturalization Club of E. Boston, Mass., and in consequence of a collection taken up, one of the number, namely VANZETTI, was delegated to visit New York to arrange legal assistance for the arrested aliens.

BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI

Bartolomeo Vanzetti was born at Piedmonte, Italy, (North) in 1887. At the age of 18 he migrated to France where he resided for two years before coming to the United States, where he arrived at New York City in 1900. At New York he was employed for a short time as a restaurant worker and from there proceeded to Hartford, Meriden, and Springfield in search of work. He again returned to New York and later to Springfield, Mass., where he was employed as a railroad laborer. Following this he secured employment in a foundry at Worcester, Mass., and in 1913 he located at Plymouth, Mass., secured employment at Plymouth Cordage Company, and was one of the leading figures in a strike conducted there at that time. As a result of his leadership in this strike he was denied work. This brought him up to the time that the United States entered the War, when he left the country for Mexico with SACCO and others in order to avoid military duty.

During the publication of GALLERANI'S paper, "La Cronaca Sovversiva" VANZETTI was not only a subscriber to that anarchistic sheet but was also one of its distributors and contributors. He received 100 copies of the paper each week for which he paid personally. He was a friend of the Italian anarchist LUIGI GALLERANI and the Bureau has in its possession a photograph of GALLERANI and others including VANZETTI. During this time he also became active as a speaker for the Cronaca Sovversiva group and was

known as such throughout New England. With the outbreak of the war VANZETTI left the United States in company with a number of other Italian anarchists, including [REDACTED] CARLO VALDINOCCHI, and others. While in Mexico he lived on Calle Galliani, Monterey; during his residence in Mexico he also corresponded with Raffaele Schiavini, the manager of "La Cronaca Sovversiva" and the right hand man of Luigi Galleani. In February, 1918, VANZETTI left Mexico and returned to Massachusetts, stopping enroute at San Antonio, Texas, St. Louis, Missouri, Chicago, Illinois, Farrell, Penna., Youngstown, Ohio, and eventually arriving at Plymouth, Mass., in May, 1918. In Plymouth being unable to secure work he secured a license to sell fish.

At the time of the aforementioned arrest of Elia and Salsedo in March, 1920, both of whom VANZETTI knew personally, Salsedo and Elia having been employed by "La Cronaca Sovversiva", VANZETTI conducted a meeting among the Italian anarchists in Massachusetts for the purpose of collecting funds to provide legal defense for the two anarchists arrested in New York. Meetings of this kind were held at the Italian Independent Naturalization Club at E. Boston, Mass.; amongst those active at such meetings in addition to SACCO and VANZETTI were VINCENZO COLOROSSO, of Boston; Carlo Forte, of Beverly, Mass.; Areste Bianchi, of Beverly, Mass., and one [REDACTED] of Boston. ^{b7c} As a result it was decided to send VANZETTI to New York to secure information concerning the arrest of Salsedo and Elia and to engage an attorney other than Attorney DONATO, of whom they had become suspicious. While visiting in New York in May, 1920 VANZETTI conferred with LUIGI QUIETILLIANI, Secretary of the Committee for Political Victims of New York City and made arrangements

ments to have Attorney EDWARD DE SILVA substituted in place of Attorney DONATO. On May 5, 1920, shortly after their return from New York to Boston he was arrested on the charge of murder.

SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE

The arrest of SACCO and VANZETTI created quite a stir amongst the anarchists, communists, and radical element of the Italian race in the State of Massachusetts. Shortly after their arrest there was brought into being an organization known as the SACCO-VANZETTI COMMITTEE. The moving spirit of this body was one ALDINO FELICANI, who at the time (1920) held the office of treasurer of the Committee and was at the time ably assisted by FRANK R. LOPEZ. ALDINO FELICANI resided at the time at 132 Rindge Ave., Cambridge, Mass., and was employed as a linotype operator for an Italian Daily "Lanotixia" at 32 Battery Street, Boston, at which address in another part of the building was located the general headquarters of the SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE. FELICANI is an alien and an Italian anarchist all of which he openly avows. FELICANI came to Boston shortly after the deportation of LUIGI GALILEANI, who at the time was secretary of the Committee for Political Victims of New York City in 1908, and since that time has filled the vacancy created by the deportation of LUIGI GALILEANI. Prior to coming to Boston FELICANI was connected with the radical publications in New York City and Cleveland, Ohio, all of which has been reported to the Bureau in reports under the caption of ALDINO FELICANI, in which reports detailed information has been given concerning his radical activities since he came to this country.

FRANK R. LOPEZ is a Spanish anarchist who was very active with

GALIEANI in Massachusetts in 1917 and 1918 representing the I. W. W. movement there, and also the activities of the anarchistic "Gruppo Fraternaldad". About 1914 LOPEZ was arrested on an immigration warrant on the charge of being illegally in the United States in that he was an alien anarchist. Deportation to date, 1920, however, had not been effected for the reason that LOPEZ was able to procure postponement of deportation. The Italian daily "La ~~Optizia~~", on which paper FELICANI is employed, was at one time a socialistic weekly publication edited by VINCENZO VACI~~A~~, who in 1918 returned to Italy and was elected a socialist representative in the Italian Chamber of Deputies, and has since the SACCO-VANZETTI case came before the public espoused the cause of the two defendants. The paper since then has become a regular Italian daily newspaper, the editor of which is one LOPRESTI.

During the trial of VANZETTI on the charge of the E. Bridgewater, Mass. crime, he was represented by Attorney JAMES GRAHAM and one VAHEY of Boston. Since the DEFENSE COMMITTEE was inaugurated, however, these attorneys were dropped and the services of FRED H. MOORE, of Los Angeles, Calif. were secured, Mr. MOORE coming to Boston from San Francisco and assuming entire charge of the legal defense of the case. FRED H. MOORE will be recalled as the attorney associated with Attorney Darrow in the well-known Thomas Mooney trial in California. Prior to that Moore was also an attorney for ETOR and GIOVANNITTI at Salem, Mass., in 1912, who were acquitted on a murder charge brought against them in connection with the Lawrence, Mass. strike. Mr. Moore maintains an office at 68 Pemberton Square, Boston, which in addition to being an office of the SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE is also the office of the FEDERATED PRESS LEAGUE. With the inauguration of

CRESTE BIANCHI, 48 Federal Square
Beverly, Mass.
CARLO FORTE, Box 370, Beverly, Mass.

[REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED]
Many, if not practically all of the foregoing have been the subjects of reports to this Bureau in the past.

In addition to the above there became affiliated with FELICANI of Boston, one [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Professor FELICE GUADAGNI, Box 96, E. Boston, Mass., who was employed on the Italian Daily paper "Gazetta Del Massachusetts" and who enjoyed a good reputation in that district up to the time of his appearance in the SACCO-VANZETTI case in which he openly declared that he was an anarchist.

About the time that Attorney Moore arrived in Boston to assume control of the legal defense of the two defendants a number of the local and native radicals of Massachusetts rallied to his (Moore's) support. Prominent amongst these were

Mrs. Elizabeth Glendower Evans, of Brookline.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In or about September, 1920, the SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE ceased to function as an organization and immediately LOPEZ solicited contributions throughout the United States from the various Spanish anarchists; in like manner FELICANI solicited contributions from the Italian anarchists; also at the same time sub-committees were created in a large

number of the cities throughout the country, particularly in New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, San Francisco, Newark, N.J., Scranton, Penna., and Carlinville, Illinois, Dillondale, Ohio, Chicago, Barre, Vermont, and Milford and Lawrence, Massachusetts, as well as in many smaller cities throughout the United States. The active workers of this committee in the aforementioned places may be found mentioned in the report submitted by Special Agent [REDACTED] ⁶⁷⁰ to this Bureau under date of October 20, 1921 under the title of "ALDINO FELICANI". In this report there is contained some thousand names of persons who received the publication known as "L'Agitazione", some persons named therein receiving as many as 100 copies.

At the same time the "Comitato pro Vittime Politiche" (Committee for Political Victims) of New York City, of which LUIGI QUINTILLANI is secretary, and the "Lega Italiana difesa Operai" of Brooklyn, N.Y., of which GIOVANNI BALDAZZI is secretary, and the I. W. W. Defense League of Chicago, all joined in their support of the organization. In order to secure as large a fund as possible for the defense of the two defendants, the SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE supplemented applications for contributions by instituting a series of public

protest meetings throughout the country and securing as speakers the following persons:

FRED H. BIEDERKNAPP, of New York City, who was active in Boston and vicinity in the years 1919-20

ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, of New York City.

CARLO TRESCA, of New York City

ARTURO GIOVANNETTI, of New York City

ERASMO S. ABOETE, editor of "La Conquista", an anarchist publication of Philadelphia

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CONSTANTINO ZANCHELLO, who is also understood to have made a tour of the country on behalf of the two defendants

[REDACTED]

LUIGI QUINTILIANI, of New York City, above mentioned

PROFESSOR FELICE GUADAGNI and

[REDACTED]

All of the foregoing have spoken in this district, as well as in other districts on behalf of the Committee.

"L'AGITAZIONE"

With the creation of the SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE there was also started an agitational newspaper by ALDINO FELICANI under the

title of "L'AGITAZIONE", the purpose of which was to place before the Italian sympathizers the ^{alleged} facts concerning the case, as well as the opinions of radicals interested in the matter. The first copy of this paper made its appearance at Boston on December 1, 1920 at which time the Committee acknowledged the total sum of \$997.45. The last edition of this paper made its appearance in Boston on October 25, 1921. According to information now in the Bureau files the issue prior to that, which was that of September 30, 1921, acknowledged receipts of money totalling more than \$71,000.00. It is understood that approximately 10,000 copies of this newspaper, which has at various times contained inflammatory articles, have been sent broadcast throughout the United States to Italian radicals. This paper is edited by ALDINO FELLICANI and it may be termed a propaganda organ.

In the issue of September 30, 1921 translations were made of two articles appearing therein under the title "Workers, With Us", which called for public demonstrations of the "Audacious Masses" on October 20, 30 and 31 on behalf of the two defendants SACCO and VANZETTI. Copies of these translations are now contained within the Bureau files.

OTHER NEWSPAPERS

In addition to L'AGITAZIONE there was also inaugurated a newspaper called EMANCIPAZIONI, published by Professor FELICE GUADAGNI, Box 93, E. Boston, Mass. This paper was also an agitational sheet issued by the Communist Party for propaganda amongst the Italian members of that organization. In the latter part of the year 1921 this sheet was discontinued and it is understood that at that time its work had been continued by the paper "ALBA NUOVO" started in the State of New York about

the same time that the former paper was discontinued.

In addition to the above papers other journals throughout the country were enlisted. Amongst these have been "IL CARTELLLO", the anarchist Communist publication by CARLO TRESCA, of New York City; "LA CONQUISTA", the anarchist syndicalist publication of ERASMO ABATTE, of Philadelphia; "IL PROLETARIO", the Italian I. W. W. sheet of Chicago; "L'AVANTI", the Italian Socialist paper of Chicago; and "IL LAVORO", the Italian socialistic newspaper of New York City.

In addition to the above, many of the radical English owned papers throughout the country have taken up the cause and have from time to time contained articles in reference to the SACCO-VANZETTI case. The FEDERATED PRESS LEAGUE which maintains an office at 68 Pemberton Square, Boston, in which building is located the attorney FRED H. MOORE, counsel for the defense, also under the direction of JOHN NICHOLAS BEFFEL, has issued a series of articles in relation to the case, which has been termed among other things the "New England Mooney Case", and in which the charge is made that the defendants have been framed because of their activities as labor agitators and as anarchists.

The Boston Advertiser, which is now a Hearst paper, contained a serial article by BEFFEL in regard to the case of SACCO and VANZETTI. At the same time the SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE has sent circulars in Spanish, Italian, and English throughout the country. The last two of these were entitled "Aliens and the Law in Massachusetts" and "The Fingers at Labor's Throat".

FOREIGN DEMONSTRATIONS

Since the convictions of the two defendants, and particularly within the months of September, October and November, of the year 1921, a number of demonstrations have occurred in countries other than the United States. According to information in possession of the Bureau the most marked of these foreign demonstrations, in behalf of SACCO and VANZETTI, have been those staged in the republic of France, - prominent amongst which was the sending of a bomb to AMBASSADOR HERRICK at Paris. Attorney FRED H. MOORE, Counsel for the Defense issued a statement in which he disavowed any sympathy with anyone perpetrating such a deed but also insinuating that the same might have been the nefarious work of enemies of SACCO and VANZETTI, Attorney MOORE, however, failed to make reference to the inflammatory articles which have appeared in FELICANI'S paper "L'AGITAZIONE", which is an organ of the SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE and also to the articles in the same paper severely criticising District Attorney KATZMAN and Judge WEBSTER THAYER. In the issue of "L'AGITAZIONE" for September 30, 1921, FELICANI suggested public demonstrations throughout the United States on October 29, 30 and 31.

In addition to the sending of the bomb to the American Ambassador at Paris, the American Embassy at Paris has reported that they have received several communications from various organizations throughout France, such as COMMUNIST GROUPS, VIGILANCE COMMITTEES and WORKMEN'S UNION, RAILROAD and other BROTHERHOODS, requesting the President of the United States to intervene in behalf of SACCO and VANZETTI, who they term their "Italian brothers or comrades".

During the early part of October, in the year 1921, certain radical organizations in the vicinity of Brest, France began to placard the city with

posters protesting against and decrying the sentence imposed by a Massachusetts Court following a conviction of murder upon the two Italian bandits, SACCO and VANZETTI. One of these papers announced that a meeting would be called on October 19th. It is reported by the American Counsel at Brest that the controlling figure at this meeting seems to have been one FISTER, a professed anarchist of Paris. The report goes on to show that about one thousand individuals were in attendance at this meeting, some of, or at least the greater portion of whom, according to reports, were socialists, communists and anarchists. After debating the resolutions of protest the meeting adjourned and the one thousand radicals began a parade through the City of Brest. Later, upon the advice of FISTER they proceeded to the American Consulate where they demonstrated their displeasures in the action of the American Court by hoots, threats and the singing of revolutionary songs. According to the report made by the American Consul, the singing of these songs would indicate the character of the individuals composing the mob. The demonstration lasted for about fifteen minutes after which the mob dispersed. The only material damage done to the Consulate, according to the report given, was the smashing of a few windows. The peculiarity of this unfortunate situation consists in the fact that, reports state, there was no police interference with the mob nor was there any attempt on the part of officials to check the demonstration. This is explained by the statement that the City of Brest has always been very poorly policed; that mobs and demonstrations are not unusual and that the true nature of the demonstration was perhaps unknown to the French officials. The day following the incident the Mayor of Brest is reported to have called upon the American Consulate and offered his apologies in behalf of the municipality. Officials of the French Government also expressed their regret at the demonstration.

and reports state that in general the incident was deplored by citizens representing the better element of France.

There is found in the Bureau file the information that the United States Embassy at London has received several communications from Labor, Communist and other organizations in England protesting against the execution of the sentence imposed upon SACCO and VANZETTI. These communications bear the date of around October and November of the year 1921, when it will be remembered the agitation carried by the SACCO-VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE in behalf of these two defendants was at its highest point. These communications expressed the belief that the two convicted men were innocent. Several of the protestants refer to SACCO and VANZETTI as comrades. The implication necessarily follows that the two men hold the same views in economic and social questions as those organizations which have registered the protest. Among the latter class are the Paddington Branch of the Communist Party of Great Britain, and the National Union of General Workers.

During the last quarter of the year 1921 there came several reports from the Ambassador at Brussels stating that several meetings of protest had been held in public under the leadership of one JACQUELOTTE, parades have been staged and despite efforts of the police some of the paraders have endeavored to reach the American Embassy where shouts of SACCO and VANZETTI have been made. The Embassy has received several communications from individuals and labor organizations protesting against the sentence imposed upon the two men. The Embassy was, for a short period of time around October and November, 1921, closely guarded by the police but outside of the demonstrations given in the form of parades and the receiving of communications from sympathizers as mentioned above, no demonstrations have taken place.

The American Minister to Switzerland reports that he has received several communications of protest all of which have been answered with the statement that the contents of the communications have been carefully noted. It is reported by him that on October 27, 1921, a crowd of four hundred communists, lead by ADOLPH KAMIE assembled in front of the American Consulate at Basel, Switzerland, and made a verbal protest against the execution of their comrades SACCO and VANZETTI. After threats of force and violence if the executions were effected the crowd disbanded.

The American Ambassador at the Hague reports the Legation is in receipt of a number of protests from Dutch radicals and communists in regard to the sentences imposed upon SACCO and VANZETTI. Meetings of protest have been held in Amsterdam, the Hague and Rotterdam and decisions have been reached to take "reprisals". No report of violence has been received. The Legation was under guard by the police for a few months after the trial of the two defendants simply as a matter of precaution.

Protests from radical organizations have been received by the American Minister at Stockholm, Sweden. The protestants are either socialistic or radicals of the extreme type. Other than orderly meetings where resolutions of protest were drawn up, there appears to have been no other demonstrations of any kind relative to SACCO and VANZETTI in the country of Sweden.

United States Minister to Norway reports that he has received several communications of protest from radical organizations and individuals. The communication NYRVID, an anarchist issue, is reported to have carried inflammatory and rabid articles with a view of arousing the people to a state of protest against the sentences imposed upon the two defendants. No demonstrations have been reported in Norway.

The American Minister to Cuba reported that in October, 1921, he received a communication signed "~~THE~~ FEDERAL BOARD # X", in which a threat was made that if the two convicted men, SACCO and VANZETTI, were executed the Embassy at Santiago would be destroyed. As a precautionary matter the Cuban Police were informed of this threat and the Embassy was under guard for a short while. No demonstrations, or even public meetings, seem to have taken place in Cuba.

The American Minister at Panama reports that one JOSE A. BROWER, styling himself Secretary of the Interior for the Communist Group, addressed a communication to him protesting against the sentence imposed upon SACCO and VANZETTI. No demonstrations have been recorded in Panama in behalf of these two defendants.

From the American Consul at Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1921, came the report that a radical sheet was being circulated in that country for the stimulation of protest meetings in behalf of SACCO and VANZETTI, condemned to die in the United States, under the title "The Crime Consummated". This sheet sets forth a rabid and unfair view of the trial at Dedham, Massachusetts, and which would perhaps lead an otherwise uninformed reader under the impression that there had been a serious miscarriage of justice. This sheet was signed by JOSE MARINERO, 32 Battery Square, Boston, Massachusetts. (Jose Marinero is an alias for Frank R. Lopez who, it will be recalled, was one of the active promoters of the SACCO VANZETTI DEFENSE COMMITTEE at Boston, Massachusetts.) The Consul reports that one or two protest communications have been received but that there have been no public demonstrations.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the case of SACCO and VANZETTI has aroused considerable feeling in many of the foreign countries but this feeling, as well as all activities and demonstrations growing out of same, is confined to a restricted class of citizens in all of the countries. Those who have concerned themselves with this case are all, in the light of the information in possession of the Bureau are agitators who have been preaching radicalism and communism in their respective countries prior to the conviction of either SACCO or VANZETTI. The absence of any official protest from any of the countries mentioned above is apparent. The better element in all of these countries have as yet to make a complaint against the action of this American Court. Practically all of the protests registered have been couched in language which would show that the ones making same are of the same class as SACCO and VANZETTI themselves. Such terms as "our comrades" and "fellow workmen" are frequent in these articles of protest when the same makes reference to SACCO and VANZETTI. The very fact that police protection has been furnished in all of the above countries where needed against these demonstrations shows that the protestants own Government is not in accord therewith.

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,
423 Federal Building, Boston, Mass.

September 14, 1926. 12

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

61-126

Dear Sir:

Attention Division No. 1.

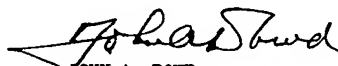
In re: SACCO and VANZETTI

The hearing on the motion for a new trial of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, based on a death cell confession of Celestino Madeiros a convicted murderer, was heard on Sept. 13, 1926, in the Superior Court at Dedham, in the County of Norfolk, Mass. before Judge Webster Thayer.

Enclosed herein you will find copies of the Boston Post and the Boston Herald for Tuesday, September 14, 1926, which treats in comprehensive form of the information advanced by the Government and the defense as well as incidents surrounding the hearing of this motion.

I feel sure you will be interested to be advised of the trend of the arguments, particularly because of the fact that your Boston, Mass. office, its personnel, and files alleged to be in its possession, have been made the subject of comment by William G. Thompson representing Sacco and Vanzetti.

Yours very truly,



JOHN A. DOWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

SEP 17

JAD:JMC
Enc.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/21/82 BY SA 6812/AC

61-126-74
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Address sent to Judge, Third Street, existing in the (Governor Fred) Norton, telephone, leading source for the Court. Dist. Atty. Gentry who appears willing for a law, Judge Webster.



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Then you always remember to pick from Five Jewel Pocket-Sleep the right time in the dark, back o' Lancashire night—Sleep-Master's black-dial watch—is one of these. Look for them in the windows of the best stores.

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WATER-PROOFING
 The Pennsylvania Cement Co. is the only manufacturer of Portland Cement in the United States that has a factory in the heart of the city of Philadelphia. The factory is located in the city of Philadelphia, and the company is the only one of its kind in the United States. The company is the only one of its kind in the United States. The company is the only one of its kind in the United States.

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132 BILLION gallons of water! Enough force held in check to wipe out a city—to devastate a whole countryside. Follow the dam, then work and play and sleep. Their lives are well guarded by the sturdy concrete dam.

When engineers specify Pennsylvania Cement for vital points, they know it will stand powerful stresses. The famous Pennsylvania Pro-test insures the reliability of each bag before it leaves the plant. There is no room for doubt.

Pennsylvania Cement Co. 1911
 At the Pennsylvania Cement Co. plant, which has offices in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and London.

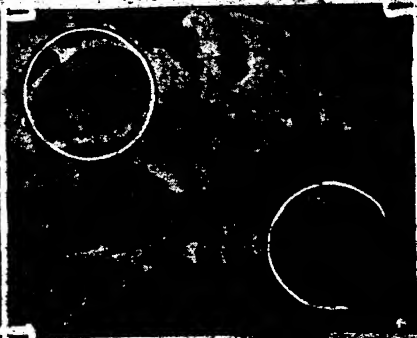
PENNSYLVANIA



BOSTON HERALD

ACCUSES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OF HALTING MOVE FOR SACCO AND VANZETTI

PHOTOGRAPH BY SACCO-VANZETTI



PHOTOGRAPH BY SACCO-VANZETTI
The Boston Herald and the Boston Herald-Examiner are the only papers in the country to have secured this photograph of the two men in the prison cell.

FORGOTTEN FACTS
SACCO AND VANZETTI
WAS ARRESTED
IN NEW YORK
IN 1920
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
BANK ROBBERY
AT BRIDGE PLAZA
IN NEW YORK
CITY
ON SEPTEMBER 30
1920
THEY WERE
ARRESTED
ON THE CHARGE
OF KIDNAPING
AND ROBBERY
THEY WERE
TRIED IN
1921
AND
SENTENCED
TO DEATH
BY HANGING
ON AUGUST 23
1927
THEY WERE
HANGED
IN THE
ELECTRIC
CHAIR
AT THE
STATE
PRISON
AT
SING SING
NEW YORK
CITY
THEY WERE
HANGED
ALONG WITH
ANOTHER
PRISONER
NAMED
EDWARD
G. BRENNAN
THEY WERE
HANGED
ON THE
CHARGE
OF KIDNAPING
AND ROBBERY
THEY WERE
TRIED IN
1921
AND
SENTENCED
TO DEATH
BY HANGING
ON AUGUST 23
1927
THEY WERE
HANGED
IN THE
ELECTRIC
CHAIR
AT THE
STATE
PRISON
AT
SING SING
NEW YORK
CITY

"Kindness in any form is ever a mark of excellence."—R. N. L.

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The Boston Post

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1926

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FEDERAL AGENTS

DETECTIVE ON CHIEF

Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

P. O. Box 239,
423 Federal Building Boston, Mass.

September 16, 1926.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Attention Division No. 1.

In re SACCO and VANZETTI

Enclosed herein you will find copy of the Boston Traveller for Sept. 15th and copy of the Boston Post for Sept. 16, 1926, in re above subjects, which treats comprehensively of the arguments set forth by counsel for the defense.

Yours very truly,

John A. Dawd

JOHN A. DAWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

JAD:JIE

2 Enc.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/29/92 BY SP-8BJJ/mc

RECORDED

SEP 1926

61-126-712	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
SEP 16 1926 A.M.	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
Dir.	<i>[Signature]</i>

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JUDGE THAYER IMPOSED UPON DEFENSE SAY

"Used as Tool" by U
Officials, Sacco Cou
rel Declares

Judge Webster Thayer, who
five years set on a court bench
legal battles between attorneys
Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo
attest and district attorneys of
folk simply went on, was used
tool of the federal officials,"
according to Atty. William G. Th
son, senior defense counsel,
opened his arguments for a new
for the convicted men in Ded
court today.

IMPOSED UPON
Atty. Thompson said there was
question but that the court was ar
trapped upon by former Dist.
Frederick Kaitaman. That individ
Thompson said, was playing "his
of a bargain with United States off
when he examined Sacco on radiom
evidence against Sacco and his r
associates," and Thompson, speak
whether had the court known the
circumstances "he would have priv
himself to be a tool of the federal
state."

Atty. Thompson in his earlier
speech to the court before he beg
arguments, promised that he wou
back former Dist. Atty. Kaitaman,
prepared and prosecuted the
against Sacco and Vanzetti. He
ferred to the activities of the U
State department of justice agents
co-operated with Kaitaman
He outlined his formal argume

(Continued on Page Twenty-Nine, Colu

Madison told the jury that the first one was made to make better his (Madison's) first and second and that Madison was in the position of having made it to him.

There is no shadow of a doubt of the
United States government agents are
the prosecution of Shores and Vannett
There is no shadow of a doubt of the
United States government agents are
the prosecution of Shores and Vannett

"There can be no question on this. **Simulations** have made what this country was greatly improved upon in the request for the introduction of evidence and requests to rule. I will speak

the cross-examination of Sacco. Mr. Katemann asked your honor to ask questions on Sacco's radicalism on the ground that he claimed to test Sacco's sincerity. He was paying his part a bargain with United States officials for the purpose of getting evidence in them to use against Sacco and his radical associates. If your honor be-

TOO LATE FOR FILM

Thompson said that the missing papers contained information to the effect that these federal officials were not willing to open their files of the Sacco-Vanzetti case to the court. He said it is too late for these officials to come forward with explanations and excuses for not having done so before when he made the request of them to do so.

While this motion, Thompson was not filed for some time after the information was known, it was withheld because it would be unfair to Detroit to file it earlier in view of its approaching second trial.

mitted the murder, Thompson said he
reilly was regarded as the most dan-
gerous member of the gang, and that
he had played traitor to his associates
showing the police where they

Atty. Thompson pictured State
owners Fleming and Furrer going about
the state to secure witnesses, now
going to the Leavenworth penitentiary.
Asst. Dist. Atty. Ramsey at this point
interrupted to remark "I'm very sorry
you're not here."

"It is common knowledge that hold-ups are in general the work of youths. It is a fact, regrettable as it may be, that these hold-ups are by and large committed by young boys who have not attained the majority."


"Now Magdalen was a boy of ardent temperament. When a boy he was admitted for breaking and entering. It seems to have been a born trait. He had an instinct for stealing. There was record of his being arrested for the personating an officer, but the record shows he was arrested for being like a sneak-thief," he May, 1929. He was

The records show Madeiros to be a type who might be appealed to by others to join them in highway robbery. Before April, 1939, he was with the Biroselli gang engaged in such work. He has an affidavit showing that he can "do a good job."

Wrentham, qualified him to commit the Southern States crime.

Thompson said the government had made much of the fact that Mindes had asked to be shown the Sacco statement of the Sacco-Vanzetti defense fund committee, showing the large sum of money collected. The intima-

"Where was he expected to enjoy the money, and when was he expecting to make a demand for it? When he was in the electric chair? The suggestion is preposterous, and it does not accept for the fact that long before he



21. said Madison was a "little
thing" she was who, for a long
time, had been in the house
and distant of a "little thing."

THE BIZARRE
 Thompson took up here the story of the misunderstanding of William F. Maedrea, a former assistant district attorney, who had been charged with the murder of a woman. He said he had called by telephone that Joseph F. Maedrea had told him Maedrea's story and that he had been charged with the murder of a woman.

He said: "It is because of this...
...Kelly is justified in his...
...is going to state prison for an...
...Great Weeks. What these men...
...to be was to set one affidavit off...
...another. They did not want the

They wanted to make a case.
They did not take the affidavit
Wicks and read it as I did. They
it in the state police office. The
police were committed up to
against Sacco and Vanzetti.
What did they get? Nothing.
a communication from Wicks.
of compensation for Wicks
that was sent to the state

"We know the gang. We with them when they robbed the house. He didn't get any more out of that job. When he asked Joe, Joe said it wasn't whisky, the vinegar. Joe had a sense of that is about the only good

have ever learned about him. He was several robberies of what the warehouse. Why would W

"He did not lie."

STANDS UNCONTRADICTORY

"Now as for Madeiros. He admit only what would implicate self and not implicate any one. He started out by saying 'I'll

tell you, or lie, about anything implicates my associates.' Yet admitted after three hours of questioning in which I used every device I knew, that he had told Weeks a crime. Was that reluctant part of Madeiros to admit telling of that robbery? Is not that the badge of truth? Weeks and Madeiros told him that he was

"Madeiros told Monterio that he had double-crossed him. Monterio said he was not going to let him off."

he doubted that the gang had crossed Madeiros and always that the money which Madeiros was traveling about in Fulton from the South Braintree job did Madeiros get that money. Monterio says even more than that. Madeiros had a soft spot for Mrs. Monterio."

between counsel as to the money which Madeiros had. Thompson said that for the of his argument, however, it material to him whether the was \$1500, \$1800, \$2000 or \$2500.

...job? He said, 'Yes. I came around again and over the whole story. There is no for her to fabricate the uncontradicted. She said it was true. If the Montagu reputable house, and I suppose will be asked not to be because they conduct a house if they had a house.

Thompson again stated that he was not joining with the affidavit. He said that he was not a member of the court to the prosecution to make

one word of this applied to the man who is responsible for the shooting of Mr. Wihar." At this point Banney said that the only possibility there was, he would have to see Mr. Thompson, who was the only one who could tell him the truth.

MADEIROS LAUDED BY THOMPSON

South Coast
Sept. 16, 1926

Confession Due to

Pity, Says Lawyer
for Radicals

GOVERNMENT AGENTS
PLAYED FOR METHODS

Telling Truth About
Vanzetti and Sacco
Is Claim

The only mother that Celestino
V. Madeiros had for confessing to
the South Braintree double murder
for which Sacco and Vanzetti, inter-
nationally known radicals, were
tried and found guilty was pity for
Mrs. Sacco and her children, ac-
cording to William C. Thompson,
counsel for the accused men.

Continued on Page 8—Fourth Col.

Hovey

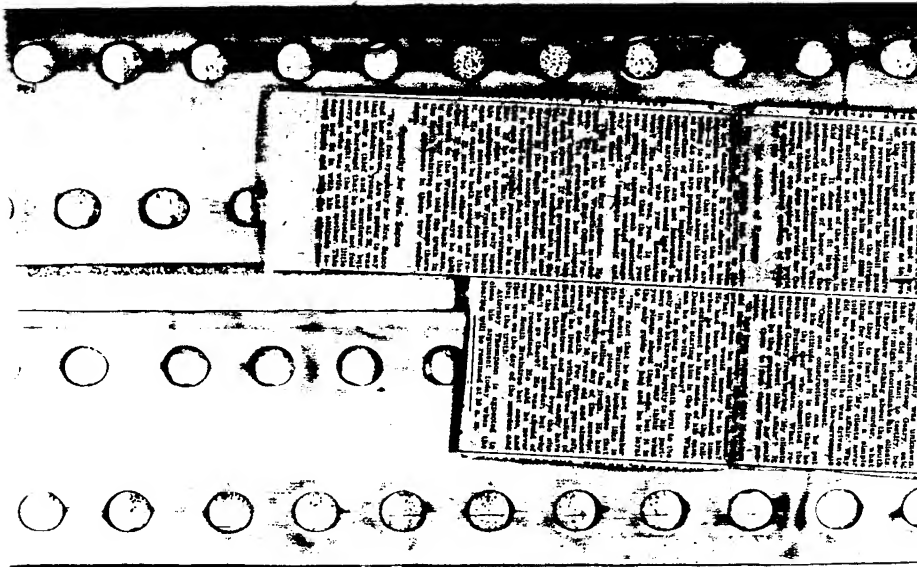
Sales Reco

Captain, "Hovey" Men
Metropolitan Boston
customers from Maine
shire, Vermont and New
setts prove that Hovey
Downstairs Store is Ta
who know and want ext
full regular stocks
counts free de
extra shopping comforts



Ideal
Siste
Moth
for Co.
and
Busin
Girl

The flattering new colors
features make these new
value-knowing women. Ta
and two-piece styles—with
Hers—with new sleeves a



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

6516

Mr. J. A. [unclear]
F. B. I. [unclear]
[unclear], [unclear]

Dear Sir:-

With reference to the proceedings in the [unclear] case, I anticipate that a concerted effort will be made to secure access to the files of the Bureau in the Boston Office by counsel for the defense. In reviewing the correspondence in this office I have noted particularly your communication of July 22, 1946, in which you stated that, after conference with Mr. Williams, it was decided not to prepare a summary of the files in this case, and that you extracted from the files such reports, letters, and memoranda appearing therein which you considered material of a non-confidential nature to expose to the examination of William S. Thompson, attorney for Babco and Vansetti. In this, you added, Mr. Williams agreed with you that it was of such confidential nature that it should not be shown to Mr. Thompson.

I wish that you would prepare for me a full and complete summary of the files in your office in this case in order that I might have the benefit of the same in the event of any correspondence that may be called at Washington. I wish that you would also advise me of the contents of the reports, letters, and memoranda of a confidential character which you withdrew from the main file. In preparing your summaries of summary, you may prepare it in two sections, one dealing with the general file and the other dealing with the confidential matters.

I wish that you would keep me fully advised of the developments in the present proceedings in this matter, and I think it would be desirable for you to follow the report of the proceedings as they appear from day to day in the paper, noting any comments thereon which are [unclear] in the records or facts.

61-126-713

[illegible]

I trust that you can appreciate my attitude in this matter. So, of course, in Washington and some distance from Boston and representations are frequently made to officials at Washington, of a character that would appear on their face to be sincere and to be based upon facts, whereas these same representations would not for a moment be made to individuals who were thoroughly familiar with the facts and who are actually on the ground. Consequently it is for this reason that I am seeking from you the first hand information so that I may properly present the matter to the Attorney General in the event that I am called upon for it.

Very truly yours,

Director.

